

The Middlebury Campus

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Teams Discuss Homophobia

By Anna Chamby

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, roughly 100 student athletes from 30 teams met in the McCullough Social Space to discuss homophobia and athletics as a follow-up to Wade Davis' visit in January.

The discussion, organized and facilitated by James Clifford '15 and Katie Linder '15 and co-hosted by Queers and Allies (Q&A), was designed around several questions; primarily, whether homophobia exists within athletics at the College and if so, how it manifests itself. Discussions were further guided to explore the implications of homophobia and homophobic language, as well as possible ways to address these issues in the athletic realm.

"We want to talk about ways to make teams a more welcoming place, if they don't already feel welcoming to LGBT students," said Linder, a member of Q&A and the women's rugby team.

The idea for a discussion among student athletes on homophobia originated within Q&A, stemming from the sentiment that homophobia is particularly present in athletics. The proposition was then directed to Clifford, Director of the SGA Athletics Committee and a member of the men's alpine ski team, who subsequently paired up with Linder to organize the event solely for members of Varsity and Club Level I teams.

"I've experienced some homophobia on teams but also have experienced how great athletics at Middlebury are," said Linder.

Invitation to the discussion was purposely limited to Varsity and Club Level I athletes (the latter group consisting of members of men's and women's rugby, crew, and water polo teams) in order to create and maintain a safe

space for meaningful dialogue.

"We didn't want an 'us and them' scenario," Clifford explained, voicing his and Linder's worry that bringing in members of Q&A, individuals of the LGBT community, or any other student interested in the topic could lead to an accusatory environment. "We wanted to create a space where there's a really similar cultural identity, where people feel safe, but where people can discuss this more polarizing and difficult topic within that safer setting and not feel like they're being judged for being an athlete."

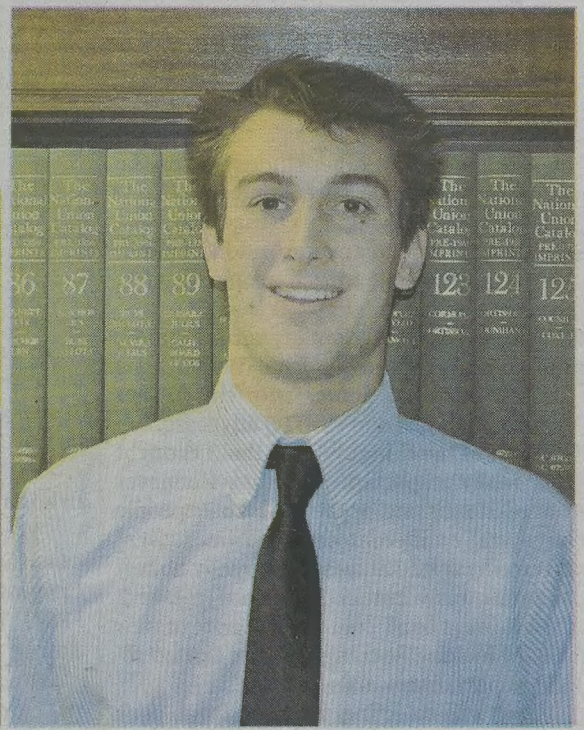
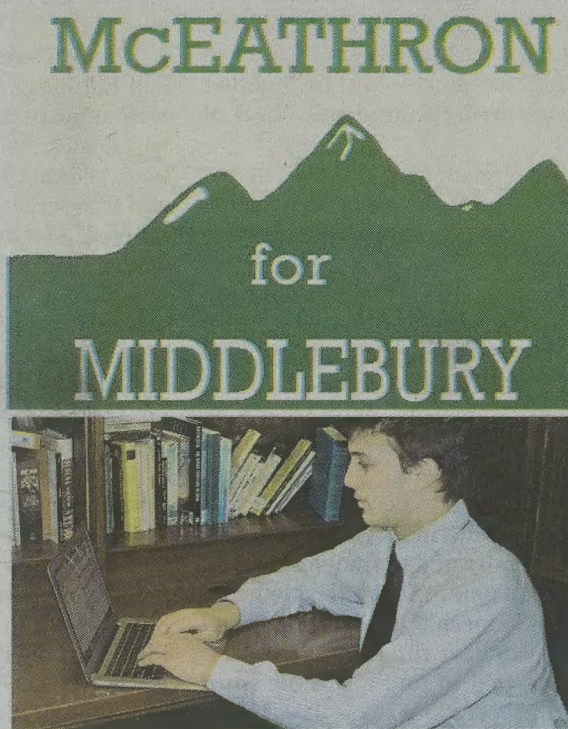
Clifford and Linder also suggested that initiating a campus-wide dialogue on homophobia was most logistically feasible through sports teams. In addition to the collective nature of sports teams and athletes as student groups, athletics have the infrastructure in the form of coaches and captains to encourage attendance.

"I don't think we are doing this because we think that athletics has the most rampant homophobia," Clifford noted. "It's fair to say that there is homophobia in athletics though I'm not ready to say that there's more homophobia in athletics than in the campus as a whole. But I think it is at least a worthwhile place to start."

Director of Athletics, Erin Quinn, concurred with this idea in an email, highlighting the importance of discussions like the one held on Tuesday.

"There are ways that this and any number of issues may have certain elements specific to athletes or teams, but more generally it is great to see the students engaged enough to want to set up the discussions on their own," said Quinn. "If this sets an example or

SEE DAVIS, PAGE 2



RACHEL FRANK

Calvin McEathron '16 will have to find balance between his coursework and campaign next fall.

Sophomore Seeks State Office

By Philip Bohlman

A native Vermonter, Calvin McEathron '16 grew up on a small farm 10 minutes from Montpelier, the state capital. In an interview, McEathron said he has been passionate about politics since his freshman year of high school, when controversial legislation on the operation of Vermont Yankee, the state's only nuclear reactor, was debated heavily in the state legislature.

This fall, McEathron will be making his dream a reality as he appears on the ballot as a candidate for one of two representatives of the town of Middlebury in the Vermont House of Representatives.

McEathron said his platform has grown from his own experience as a young adult in his home state.

"The overarching theme of the campaign is trying to get young people to come back to Vermont," he said.

He sees the lack of students in

Vermont public schools and the relocation of college-educated Vermont youth to other states as foundational problems.

"Looking ahead we need to work to build and maintain a viable student population that would assure the continued success of our reputable public education system," said McEathron. "A continued decrease in elementary and high schools students will inevitably lead to a lack of resources, diversity of classes and opportunities for our students."

According to McEathron, improved cellphone coverage and access to faster broadband internet are important measures that will attract a younger workforce to Vermont and keep them in the state. He said that he recognizes the appeal to many residents and visitors of "disconnecting," but he believes that improved infrastructure will be vital to encouraging people to work in Vermont and make it a home rather than a vacation or retire-

ment destination.

As part of an independent study last semester, McEathron researched effective campaigning techniques for state politicians, and concluded that personal engagement was more important to a campaign than a strong social media presence or excessive advertising. Over the summer he aims to knock on as many doors as possible in order to establish personal connections with his constituents and gain an understanding of their perspectives on issues affecting Vermonter.

The town of Middlebury is in the Addison-1 district and sends two elected representatives to the Vermont House of Representatives. Of the two incumbent representatives, Betty Nuovo and Paul Ralston, only Ms. Nuovo will seek re-election. She has held a seat in Addison-1 for 17 of the last 23 years and owns a lengthy record of public service in

SEE MCEATHRON, PAGE 3

SLOPESIDE PANTHER PRIDE



MICHAEL O'HARA

A panther on skis gave the Snow Bowl a test run at the 91st annual Middlebury College Winter Carnival, held on Feb. 21 and 22. The three day weekend included an ice show, semiformal dance, ice sculpture competition and free concert. For more on the results of the ski races, see Sports, page 18.

Juilliard President to Speak on Piano

By Leah Lavigne

The dedication of a new Steinway concert grand piano brings President of the Juilliard School, Dr. Joseph Polisi, to the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts on Saturday, Mar. 1 for a public lecture on "The Arts, Education and the Human Experience." Awarded an honorary Doctor of Arts degree from the College in 2010, Polisi has served as the sixth president of the prestigious conservatory of dance, music and drama for 29 years, establishing a revised curriculum with an emphasis on the humanities and the liberal arts.

Polisi's history with the College started decades ago. He worked at a summer festival at the University of Vermont in Burlington, frequently making trips to Middlebury to shop, dine and tour the College. His wife, a French teacher, was well aware of the prestigious language programs

at the College and his daughter eventually attended a Language School program at the Vermont campus over the summer. Upon receiving his honorary doctorate, Polisi became better acquainted with President Liebowitz, his wife and the Middlebury community.

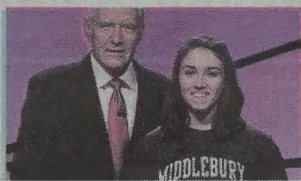
"I'm very honored to be asked back to inaugurate this new instrument," Polisi said.

Polisi looks forward to discussing the lasting positive impact the new piano will have on the College in years to come, as well as exploring the relationship between conservatory and liberal arts study. Juilliard's 600 undergraduate and 300 graduate students thrive in the world renowned Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City, but Polisi sees many possible connections between his school and Middlebury's rural community of around 2,500 undergraduates.

SEE STEINWAY, PAGE 15



UVM DISCOVERS
NEW SYRUP
TECHNIQUE
PAGE 5



STUDENT
COMPETES ON
JEOPARDY! COLLEGE
CHAMPIONSHIPS
PAGE 12



WHAT'S IN STORE
FOR SPRING DOLCI
DINNERS
PAGE 15

Davis Talk Sparks Team Discussions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

creates a model for other students to do the same, that would be a great outcome."

"We're not trying to change anyone's minds or preach to anyone," added Linder. "We're just trying to get people to start thinking."

This goal, the student organizers stated, stemmed out of advice from Wade Davis himself during a dinner with the former NFL Cornerback and LGBTQ advocate.

"One of the things he said that I thought was really important was that whenever you're discussing something that people have really different opinions on ... [it's] more effective to at least have really honest and raw conversation," Clifford recalled. "That can at least set off some sort of new way of looking at things, which can be really important towards growth."

Two self-selecting athletes from each team were asked to attend the discussion, though several teams, including women's lacrosse, had more than two participants.

"I chose to go because I thought it was important that more representatives from the team were there, especially because [homophobia is] not something that we really talk about that often," said Maddie Kinker '16 of the women's lacrosse team. "I think it's important to figure out how we can start creating this conversation and once we have, what we can learn from that to change and make the community more friendly to every kind of individual out there."

Clifford and Linder expressed their hope that those individuals who chose to attend the discussion would act as leaders by sharing their experiences and insights from the event with their teammates and so, indirectly "bring [the topic of homophobia] to the front of other teammates' minds."

In addition, they conveyed their longer-term goal to carry discussions on homophobia and related issues beyond this single event. In particular, the facilitators hope that attention to homophobia will eventually be incorporated into pre-season athletic meetings, during which athletes currently discuss sexual assault and hazing on teams. Clifford and Linder mentioned support from Quinn on the idea.

Moreover, Linder emphasized the importance of having multiple events that address the topic in different ways in order to continue the dialogue that was kick-started by Davis' visit.

The discussion is in temporal conjunction with The Office of Communication's efforts to produce Middlebury's own *You Can Play* video, reflecting support of the project for which Davis acts as Executive Director.

"[Davis'] visit generated interest and conversations about the video and added texture and context to the anticipated release ... which would have been different without his involvement," Quinn wrote.

Quinn also cited the importance of the discussion in light of Jason Collins' recent contract with the Brooklyn Nets and Michael Sam's coming out before the NFL draft.

"Athletics is behind the curve in these issues nationally, so while they come to the forefront of the national consciousness, it is appropriate and necessary for them to be in the forefront at Middlebury," Quinn added. "There is certainly a need to discuss these issues solely in the context of their existence at Middlebury College, but the national context can and should inform the discussions as well."

"It's a social issue that has come a long way and has a long way to go," Clifford said. "Like anything, things don't change overnight ... [but] just getting Middlebury students to stop from their work and their sports and their social life and to look at this, that's an accomplishment itself."

ISO Announces First Symposium

By Christian Jambora

The International Students' Organization (ISO) will be hosting Middlebury's first ever Food and Globalization Week. Running Mar. 4-11, the event — dubbed "F&G Week" for short — will tie together global issues with the academic study of food.

ISO Vice President Mika Tan '15 has been working on this project with the organization's symposium committee since November of last year.

"We wanted to do a huge symposium as our first flagship spring event," Tan said. In the fall, the organization holds the annual ISO Cultural Show.

However, since its early planning stages, the project has been scaled down from the large academic symposium it originally intended to be.

"We realized our main goal is to showcase the diversity of our student body on campus," Tan said. "So we decided that [F&G Week] doesn't have to stay academic. We can have fun things, too."

Tan struggled to find a specific word to categorize F&G Week. "It's not a symposium, and it's not a conference." Eventually, Tan settled on the following: a collection of separate but interrelated activities that celebrate food and culture.

Helen Wu '16.5 is a board member on the planning committee for F&G and considered other themes such as art and music before ultimately settling on food.

"I think food has the power to gather

people together," said Wu. "Eating food is an occasion to share experiences. It's an occasion to share history, culture, and geography."

The activities planned for F&G Week will fall into one of two categories—culture or academics. The cultural category will include food tastings, cooking lessons, and film screenings. A themed Atwater dinner is also being prepared. The academic category of activities will include lectures and panel discussions on topics related to food and culture.

Dr. Teresa Mares, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Vermont, will be the week's featured speaker. Her work has focused on changes in Latino and Latina diets following migration. Panel speakers for F&G Week will include Middlebury's own Lois B. Watson Professor of French Paula Schwartz, Gordon Schuster Professor of Anthropology Ellen Oxfeld, and Visiting Professor of Geography Kacy McKinney.

Many activities for the week will be held by other student organizations. Clubs currently planning to hold events include Hillel, Alianza, the Japanese Club and the Southern Society.

"I think a great part of planning this event has been the collaboration with everyone," said Tan.

The Japanese Club will be holding a cooking workshop where students can learn to make dumplings.

"Our main goal is to help others discover Japanese culture," said Dew Nawarat '14, the club's president.

The Southern Society will hold a Mardi Gras event showcasing Louisiana Cajun food. On the menu are beignets, gumbo, jambalaya and king cake.

"As most students at Middlebury have never been to Mardi Gras or Louisiana, we hope to bring a little bit of the South to New England," Southern Society President Zack Strauss '15 wrote in an email.

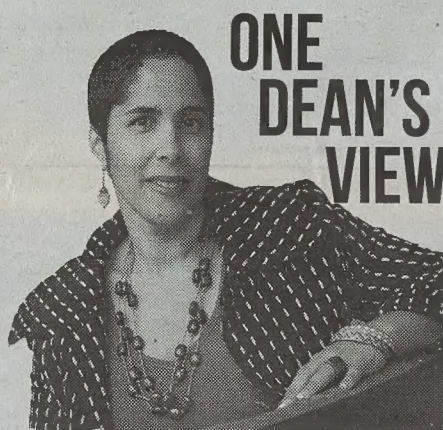
At the end of F&G Week, ISO hopes that all Middlebury students will gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity of their student body.

"The process is meant to be as fun as it is intellectually stimulating, and we really hope that students will begin to view the connections between themselves and the many cultures that populate their community," said ISO President Joanne Wu '15.

"... our main goal is to showcase the diversity of our student body on campus.... So we decided that [the symposium] doesn't have to stay academic"

MIKA TAN '15
ISO VICE PRESIDENT

TODAY'S STUDENTS ARE CHANGING COLLEGES



When the trustees were here last weekend, I shared a compelling article with them— "Ways Today's Students Are Radically Changing Our Colleges" from *AGB Trusteeship* magazine. The article reviews the findings of a six-year national study involving 33 campuses and thousands of students and concludes that students today are "different from their predecessors in ways that have profound implications for colleges." Three similar studies were conducted between 1969 and 1993.

I would like to share some of the findings with you because you might find them interesting. To me, they raise a fundamental question: what is Middlebury's role in educating today's 21st-century students, and how flexible do we need to be to meet their needs?

The article states that the primary differences between students today and their predecessors are:

- "Today's undergraduates are the first generation of digital natives."

- "Undergraduates are older, fewer live on campus and more attend part time."
- "Students are products of the worst economy since the Great Depression."
- "They are more immature, dependent, coddled and entitled."
- "They are the most diverse generation in higher education history."

For this column, I would like to talk about two in particular.

Digital natives: Operating in a 24/7 universe, in which almost everything is instantly accessible, is an unprecedented societal change. The article notes a "mismatch" between the students and institutions of higher ed that conduct business in real time and in real locations and use more linear, passive learning tools, such as lectures and books. Digital natives, however, "prefer active and concrete learning involving applications, games and collaborations." They tend to gather information as needed and "don't understand that plagiarism is wrong" because, for them, sharing in all forms is routine, highlighting another possible incongruity as we struggle to enforce our academic-honesty policies. How should colleges deal with the fact that their students exist in an entirely different realm of experience than the faculty and administrators?

Additionally, digital natives are more comfortable texting than talking. Many people have observed that students today are not as skilled in interpersonal communication and that they don't have the necessary tools to cope with conflict. Again, does Middlebury have

a role to play here? It's intriguing, for example, to think about interventions that would raise awareness and encourage face-to-face interaction: instituting campus-wide digital-free days or weeks, requiring conversations like JusTalks, establishing device-free zones.

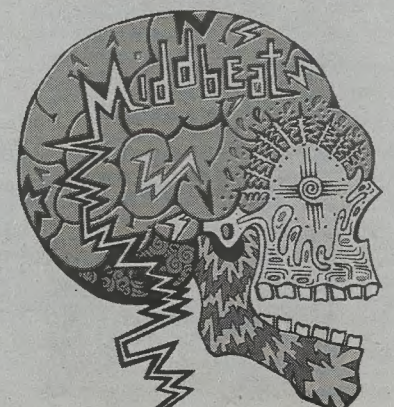
Immature, dependent, coddled and entitled: The article describes students who rely on their parents more heavily than previous generations did; they are not as independent or self-reliant. Two-fifths reported that they phone, e-mail or text their parents daily and one-fifth reported being in contact three times a day or more. The article also noted that students report feeling isolated, lonely, having "overwhelming anxiety" and being "psychologically exhausted." They "require significantly more psychological and emotional support."

My colleagues and I are concerned about the psychological stresses students face, often well before they get to college, and the resiliency that many students don't possess. I would like to understand this better from your perspective and experience. Your observations, reactions and suggestions about any of the topics raised in the article may help us find ways to respond to students' emerging needs. Most importantly, are there aspects of these findings that call for students to push themselves to claim a different experience in college? Do you want something different from Middlebury or something different from yourself and your peers?

Copies of the article are in my office for anyone wishing to read it. It is not available online, so come by and see me **in person** (smile).

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Join the conversation. Comment on
middleburycampus.com or
[at middbeat.org](http://middbeat.org)



WOMP Gives Students the mic

By Caroline Agsten

On Feb. 19, the Gamut Room presented a new music initiative, Wednesday Open Mic Performance (WOMP). Spearheaded by Eyal Levy '14.5 and Mitchell Parrish '14, WOMP is a weekly series that allows student musicians to perform in the hope of developing a more vibrant music scene on campus.

Approximately 40 students filled the Gamut Room for the inaugural WOMP, which featured two prescheduled headliners in addition to eight open mic performances at the beginning of the event, totaling two hours of live music by students.

"The first night exceeded all expectations," said Parrish. "I was overwhelmed with the energy in the crowd and everyone seemed legitimately pumped to be there."

WOMP was designed as a vehicle for student bands and performers to showcase their talents, as well as give other students the opportunity to listen and support their peers.

"There is a growing music scene on campus, but it's fragmented," said Parrish. "There are tons of musicians and several active bands on this campus, but not many people know them. Even worse, most of the musicians don't even know each other."

WOMP grew out of a musician meet-up proposed at a Middlebury Music United (MMU) meeting. The concept was formalized into a weekly event, and the idea of adding open mic performers in addition to the invited musicians was introduced as a way of making music more accessible.

Following the eight open mic performances, Weyland Joyner '14.5 and Sam Finkelman '14 took the stage together, followed by Leif Castren '14, who concluded the night.

"I wanted to perform because I'll take any chance I can get to play live music — it's my favorite thing to do," Finkelman said. "When Mitchell [Parrish] asked Weyland and I to throw a few songs together, I jumped on the opportunity."

"I also think it's incredible when musi-



PAUL GERARD

Students perform at the first Wednesday Open Mic Performance in Gifford Hall.

cians on campus get together. There's a lot of talent here at Middlebury, and I wanted to meet more musicians and show younger students that performing here shouldn't be a big deal," he added.

Finkelman and Joyner played folk, bluegrass and blues music including songs by John Prince and Warren Zevon. The duo also debuted a song written by Finkelman.

Castren followed with songs by The Devil Makes Three, The Tallest Man on Earth and Ray LaMontagne.

"Playing music for people is fun as well as a good challenge," he said. "Since I hadn't performed in a long time, it was a really novel experience to be able to get up on stage and sing. For me, it was a test of how comfortable I am with performing."

Castren said that he hadn't played in front of a large audience for two years, and noted that WOMP allowed him, and will allow others, to improve stage presence.

The headlining musicians were specifi-

cally invited by Levy and Parrish to perform.

"A lot of the venues on campus that organize music are very stigmatized," said Awa Goodwin '14 at the inaugural WOMP. "This is a really cool way to get a lot of people to come forth and share their music in a way that's open to a diverse group of people. It's too bad that music doesn't reach a lot of people on this campus, so this is definitely an event worth attending."

Parrish hopes that future WOMP events manage to garner equal attention.

"My goal is to make WOMP an institution on this campus," said Parrish. "The Gamut Room is one of the coolest student spaces on campus, and when you combine it with good food and live music, there's nothing better."

WOMP is held in the Gamut Room every Wednesday night at 9 p.m. Headliners are scheduled through April 23, and interested parties are encouraged to contact Levy and Parrish via email.

MCEATHRON TO PUSH FOR YOUTH APPEAL IN VT.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Middlebury.

McEathron and Donna Donahue — his first announced competitor — will seek to fill Ralston's spot. Donahue is the former president of the Better Middlebury Partnership.

"There is already some competition which is great, and knowing how competitive the Vermont political process can be, I wouldn't expect anything else," McEathron said.

McEathron is not the first young student at the College to pursue state office. Former Governor of Vermont and Executive in Residence Jim Douglas '72, recognized around campus for teaching the J-term class "Vermont Government and Politics," was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives the same year he graduated from college.

"The legislature is stronger when Vermonters of different backgrounds and ages serve," Douglas wrote in an email. "It's young people who have the most at stake, after all, as they'll be around longer to experience the benefits and burdens of laws that are passed. In 1973 the Vermont House had the largest number of members age 25 and under in the nation: I think my older colleagues saw the value of all that youthful energy!"

McEathron's run will not be easy. He faces experienced candidates in Nuovo and Donahue, and will have to find a balance in the spring and fall in running his campaign while pursuing his studies.

At the moment however, he is focused on his message.

"There are a lot of issues from taxes to healthcare that are really affecting Vermonters right now," he said. "I think with a younger voice and a different perspective we could

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

By David Yang

On Monday, Feb. 17, Community Council continued the ongoing discussion of hard alcohol policies with the Commons Deans. Dean of Brainerd Commons and Visiting Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature Natasha Chang, Dean of Wonnacott Commons Matt Longman and Dean of Cook Commons Ian Sutherland were present at the meeting.

Hard alcohol has been a main topic for Community Council since last spring when President Ron Liebowitz asked the Council to examine the role of hard alcohol on campus as a condition of his approval of the Mill Hard Alcohol Exception. During its meetings in the fall semester about the issue, the Council met with Dean of Students Katy Smith-Abbott and Coach Bob Ritter, co-chairs of the 2011-2012 Task Force on Alcohol and Social Life, Gus Jordan, executive director of Health and Counseling Services, and Barbara McCall, director of health and wellness education. A number of members on the Council felt that it was necessary to continue the conversation surrounding hard alcohol with the Commons Deans.

The deans have a more personal understanding of this issue as they work directly with the students who struggle with substance abuse. The College emphasizes education over punishment for students who abuse alcohol, unlike many peer institutions. All students who have to meet with their deans to discuss their alcohol usage are required to go through the Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) program that focuses on educating the student to make better informed decisions about alcohol consumption.

"We work most closely around health and safety," explained Longman. "It's very important to me that students feel that our approaches are reasonable. There are some on campus whose perception is [...] that the administrators and the deans are not doing enough about [alcohol issues] and are not coming down hard enough. From my stand-

Sober Friends and Hard Alcohol

point as someone who sits with students following up after these really tough weekends [...], it is easier to see it that way [in a distance] but when you're really with [these students] you realize that this is a human question [...] about who we are as a community and how we treat each other."

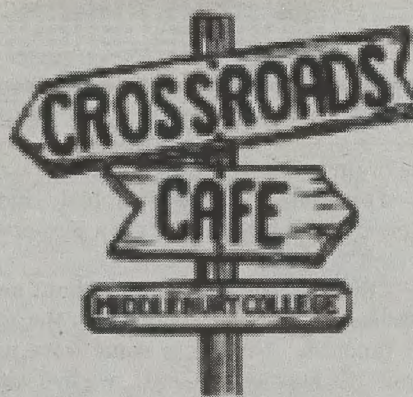
The Sober Friend System, which is one of many safety nets that the college implements, was discussed at the meeting. The Council also debated the idea of having the Parton Center for Health and Wellness open on Friday and Saturday nights.

"The same people are asked to be Sober Friends over and over again because they are usually people who are nondrinking, and it's problematic to continue with the same people taking these caretaking positions," said Chang about the Sober Friend System. "A second flaw is that at times the Sober Friend will leave the person, which is concerning. I don't think there's an easy solution to either of the two programs and I don't feel that those are great enough problems to do away with the Sober Friend system. I really feel that the system is part and parcel of the Good Samaritan policy."

Ann Hanson, Posse Mentor, former Dean of Students and proxy for Dean of Ross Commons Janine Clooney, pointed out that safety nets, while making the campus generally safer, also encourage students to make irresponsible decisions:

"One of really big challenges in grappling with this issue is [to consider whether] you are hampering or enabling students to drink more by having [those] safety nets. In the real world, you can go to the hospital if you drink too much [...] We at Middlebury have always struggled with what our philosophy is and I think we try really hard to keep people safe at a huge expense... [By having those safety nets] we are making it easier for students to drink and be irresponsible."

This week, the Council continued the conversation about financial aid and heard a petition from the residents of Munford house to become an Interest House.



Karaoke Blackout

FRIDAY 7:00-9:00PM

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to come sing songs by Black artists in celebration of Black History Month! There will be food and good company!

Bite of Brainerd

SATURDAY 1:00-4:00PM

Come to McCullough Social Space and sample the local flavour and sounds from Middlebury's gourmet restaurants with Brainerd Commons staff and faculty. Free food from local establishments including Vergennes Laundry, American Flatbread, Noonie's, Otter Creek Bakery, Greg's Meat Market, Red Apron Cupcakery, Almost Home Market, Vermont Coffee Company, and Middlebury Natural Food's Co-Op. Several student bands will accompany the event, including Get in my Prius, 4:30 Jazz Combo, and Iron Eyes Cody. Local beers will be served in Crossroads Cafe for those over 21 with two forms of ID.



Dupont Brothers

THURSDAY 8:00-10:00PM

Blending the contemplative winters of the northeast with the solitary beauty of southwestern desert, Sam and Zack DuPont are now co-conspirators in a shared passion that runs deep in their family. Lush finger-style guitar work is complimented by elegant prose and a vocal blend that could only be matched by blood relation, producing a unique Vermont-made Folk-Americana sound.

Big Mean Sound Machine

FRIDAY 8:00-11:00PM

Fusing elements of Afrobeat, 60s Garage Rock, 70s Funk, and Jamaican Dub rhythms, Big Mean Sound Machine cranks out the dirtiest, fattest, grooviest beats to keep you moving all night long.

Gumbo YaYa

SATURDAY 8:00-11:00PM

Celebrating Mardi Gras with funky New Orleans megaband and all the fixins to fire up the soul.

Massive Fire Destroys Sugarbush Condos

By Conor Grant

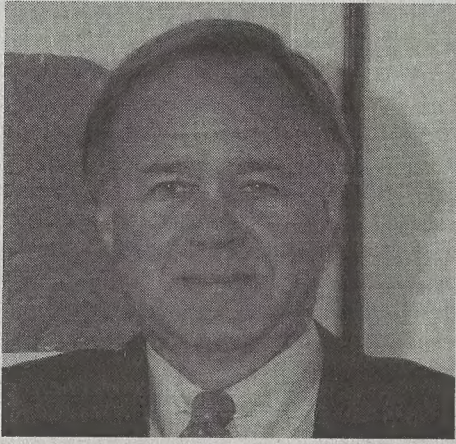
A large fire destroyed the Mountain-side condominium complex near Sugarbush Resort in Warren, Vt. on Feb. 17.

The origin of the fire is still under investigation by local authorities, but reports indicate that the fire started just after one thirty in the morning.

According to the Vermont State Police, the Warren Fire Department arrived on the scene at 1:55 a.m. after receiving a phone call describing the growing blaze. Barking dogs sounded the initial alarm, waking their owners and alerting them to the blazing fire outside.

Working in tandem, responders and residents were able to successfully evacuate all of the buildings' inhabitants.

The blaze was already too large to contain without assistance when the Warren Fire Department arrived. Warren Fire Chief Peter DeFreest described the blaze as the largest he had ever seen.



COURTESY OF VTDIGGER

Win Smith, president of Sugarbush, helped accomodate displaced guests.

Auxiliary crews from the fire departments of Waitsfield, Berlin, Moretown, Stowe, and Waterbury arrived to assist their Warren colleagues battle the flames.

Firefighters had particular difficulty responding to the fire for a number of reasons.

Early efforts to contain the flames were ineffective due to a lack of water, according to Chief DeFreest.

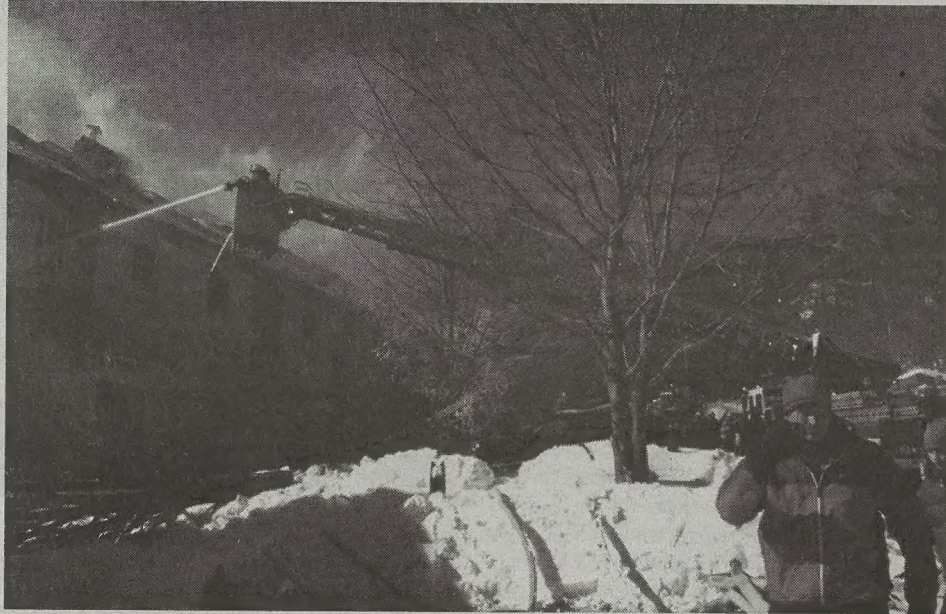
Residents of the condominiums report that the fire alarms in the complex did not immediately go off. It is unclear whether the fire alarms were defective, improperly maintained, or otherwise compromised.

Regardless of the source of the alarms' disfunctionality, their failure to promptly sound delayed the arrival of firefighters. This delay allowed for the fire to spread quickly through the large complex, compounding the difficulties already faced by the firefighters rushing to the scene.

Furthermore, the building did not have an internal sprinkler system in place, making the fire considerably more difficult to respond to for responders. The layout of the building impeded access to the backside of the building, limiting firefighters to a single avenue of engagement with the flames. Difficult weather conditions also made the firefight difficult.

The coalition of firefighters persisted in fighting the fire throughout much of the morning. The last of the building's occupants were evacuated just after 3 a.m., and firefighters continue to battle the smoke and flames for hours afterwards.

The fire is the largest Warren has seen in many years. In total, 36 condominiums were destroyed before the firefighters were able to fully extinguish the inferno.



COURTESY OF MY CHAMPLAIN VALLEY

Firefighters from numerous departments collaborated to extinguish the blaze.

Initial damage figures also indicate that it was one of the most costly fires to hit the region. Preliminary estimates place the infrastructural toll at more than \$2 million.

Sugarbush does not exclusively own or manage the Mountainside condominium complex, even though it is situated in what the resort calls 'Sugarbush village.' Sugarbush Resort rents out six or seven of the units in the complex, and the rest of them are privately owned.

Sugarbush hosted all of the evacuees of the Mountainside condominium complex, including their heroic canines, in the Timber restaurant located at the base of the Sugarbush ski area. Sugarbush owner Win Smith personally arrived at the Timber restaurant at 4:30 a.m. to assist in relief

efforts.

Sugarbush Resort is assisting all of the residents of the condos find somewhere else to stay, according to Sugarbush's vice president of marketing and communications Candice White. In addition to housing Sugarbush guests and season pass holders, the Mountainside condominiums also housed a number of Sugarbush employees, further complicating the situation for Sugarbush.

Local authorities continue to investigate the cause of the fire. In the meantime, Sugarbush Resort and Waitsfield Telecom and Green Mountain Access have jointly established a website, available at www.mountainsidefire.org, that is collecting donations to assist people affected by the fire.

ONE IN 8,700

Where the personalites of Middlebury proper are celebrated

By Allesandria Schumacher

Six years ago, Lisa Bernardin read a newspaper article that would alter the course of her life. It was during a state of "oscillation," as she said, that Bernardin came across an article about the winner of the International Brain Bee.

The Brain Bee is an international neuroscience competition for high school students. Starting with a statewide competition, winners of the Brain Bee move



COURTESY OF VERMONT BRAIN BEE

Bernardin organizes Vt.'s Brain Bee.

on to a nationwide competition. The winner of the nationwide Brain Bee then competes against representatives of 18 different countries for the title of International World Brain Bee Champion.

Immediately after reading the article, Bernardin looked to see where the nearest Brain Bee was, only to discover that Vermont had no Brain Bee. She soon became Vermont's first Brain Bee coordinator, and has been for the past five years.

"My job as coordinator is to get the participants," Bernardin said. "So I have to get excitement about learning about

the brain and how it functions."

Fortunately, there is nobody more excited about this subject than Bernardin herself.

"Everybody's got to know about neuroscience," Bernardin said. "It's the way we function. I mean in some ways it is vital. It's how we live, but... we live without really knowing that we need that information."

One might assume that Bernardin had a background in neuroscience before becoming involved in the Brain Bee, but she had never been educated in neuroscience. Rather, her interest in the field came from both a love of teaching and also a tragic car accident 29 years ago.

"A woman hit us head on and so I was in a coma for seven weeks," Bernardin said. "The coma was the big thing because it's hidden. You can look normal but yet you ... have all these [memory and the organizational] issues... that causes stress."

She's now part of the Middlebury brain injury support group due to her Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). She has a persistent frontal lobe injury, which means she continues to have trouble with organization, planning, decision-making and other "executive" cognitive functions.

Although her injury made her job as a speech pathologist too difficult to manage, her passion for the Brain Bee has transformed her injury into an opportunity.

"It's not a job but I make it like a job in that I always have stuff to do," Bernardin said. "I'm always looking to get more schools and more high school students [involved]."

She's eager to get college students involved in Brain Bee as well — Middlebury seniors have been helping to run Brain Bee clubs at Middlebury High School

since the start of the program.

"I'd love to get more involved with the College," Bernardin said.

For now, her job as coordinator will involve helping the winner of the Vermont competition to prepare for the nationwide Brain Bee. She said that she is excited "to see the high school students wanting to learn about something that someday they might help cure" such as Alzheimers and schizophrenia.

Bernardin herself recognizes that her brain injury puts her at higher risk for Alzheimer's disease. This risk, however, is not the reason behind her passion for neuroscience.

"Sometimes I'll say that [I'm at higher risk] but sometimes I don't," she said. "I think it's just more important that neu-

roscience is out there for people to grasp and to learn about. If they help discover something for Alzheimers, that's fabulous."

Her goal for next year's Brain Bee is to increase the number of students participating back up to around 30 from the

18 students that competed this year. This will involve recruiting more Vermont high schools.

Bernardin also plans to meet with the State Department of Education, which she has done once before, and explain her goals of stronger student recruitment and more emphasis on neuroscience in the classroom.

"High school students, I think, are a really important age," Bernardin said. "Because they don't have brains that are fully developed."

Meet Lisa Bernardin

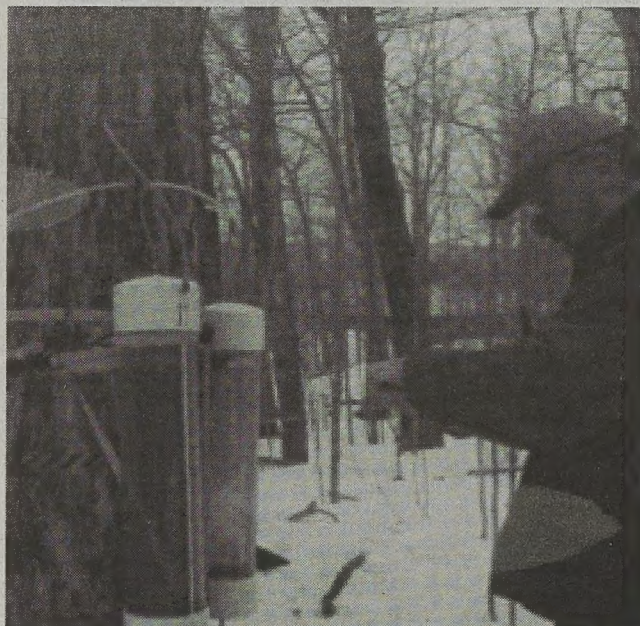
BRAIN BEE COORDINATOR



COURTESY OF VERMONT BRAIN BEE

Lisa Bernardin shares her passion for neuroscience with Vermont students.

Vermont Scientists Pioneer New Maple Syrup Technique



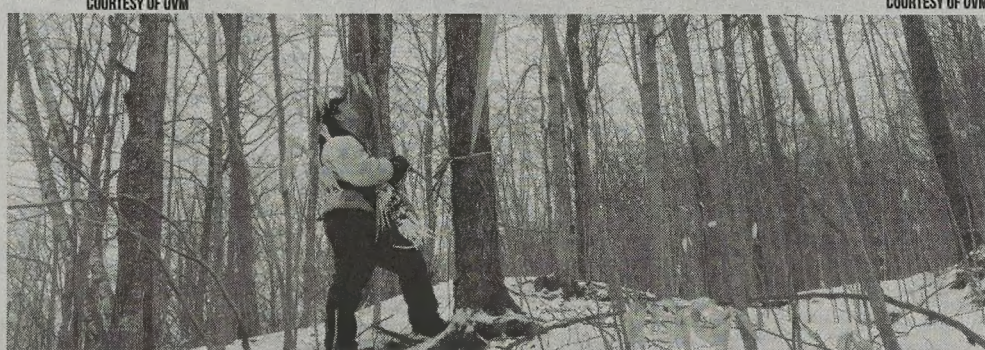
COURTESY OF UVM



COURTESY OF UVM

A sweet discovery

Scientists Abby Van Den Berg and Tim Perkins (top right) pioneered the a new technique for harvesting sap from maple trees. Tim Perkins (above) adjusts a mechanism on his apparatus. Traditional techniques (right) rely on mature maple trees for sap.



COURTESY OF VNEWS

By Sarah Koenigsberg

Tim Perkins and Abby van den Berg of the University of Vermont's Proctor Maple Research Center have discovered a new technique for extracting sap from maple trees that would produce 10 times more sap per acre than the current method. Unlike the current technique, which utilizes wild maples, theirs uses young, cultivated saplings.

The industry has undergone a number of modifications since the era of spigots and buckets. Today, most farmers harvest sap from maples using a network of tubing that winds through the natural forests from tree to tree. Vacuums are placed at the end of tubes to draw out the sap more efficiently.

Perkins and van den Berg's breakthrough occurred while they were studying the movement of sap through the maples, intending to augment their yield. By chopping off the tops of saplings and placing a vacuum directly over the stem, water is sucked from the soil straight through the plant.

The younger trees are able to regenerate their branches before the next harvesting season. This method allows growers to plant the maples in a "plantation," rather than relying on wild trees.

Reactions to the proposed technique have been mixed. The plantation method will increase predictability during the harvesting process and allow farmers to expand their businesses without investing in increasingly expensive woodland. The technique also mitigates the effects of natural disasters, decreasing the recovery period by decades.

However, many farmers fear of losing

touch with the tradition that the industry is steeped in.

"[The new process] is the antithesis of what people expect from the maple syrup industry," David Marvin, owner of Butternut Mountain Farm in Morrisville, Vermont, said.

Marvin is proud of his undomesticated maple production.

"Informed consumers like a wild crafted product," he said, emphasizing the sustainability of natural resources involved in the current process. "I'm not faulting the

"Any region with the right climate for growing maples would be able to start up maple farms."

LAURA SORKIN

CO-OWNER OF THUNDER

BASIN MAPLEWORKS

researchers. They're just doing what researchers do, but it needs to be put in a human context."

Saplings are resistant to pests, particularly the Asian longhorned beetle, which threatens a number of hardwood trees in North America. Most crucially, saplings freeze and thaw with smaller temperature fluctuations than mature trees, a necessary component of sap development, making them a bastion against climate change for

the industry

The new method vastly opens up the maple industry, as anyone with several acres of arable land could now start producing sap. Laura Sorkin, co-owner of Thunder Basin Maple Works, wrote in a recent article, "Any region with the right climate for growing maples would be able to start up maple 'farms.'"

Other farmers worry that the industry will shift away from areas with natural maple treasures, such as Vermont, to regions that lack forests but are abundant in labor.

The maple industry is a weighty component of Vermont's economy. In 2013, Vermont churned out 1.32 million gallons of syrup, accounting for 40 percent of the nation's annual production, and commercial manufacturers operate in every county in the state.

Perkins has made it clear that the new technology is not yet on the market and, at this point, would not be economically advantageous.

"There are so many small trees and sap collection devices needed," Perkins said in a recent interview with CBC news, "that the price right now is roughly about the same for the plantation method as the traditional method." Though it might take several decades, he insists the method will get cheaper with time.

Still, Perkins does not predict farmers will completely abandon the traditional process.

"This new technique isn't meant to replace the traditional maple production methods," he said. "It's made as an additional tool that maple producers can use in certain circumstances if needs dictate."

LOCAL LOWDOWN

21

"War Horse" at Town Hall Theater

Are you an equestrian craving high octane entertainment? Come see "War Horse" this Thursday at Town Hall theater, a puppet adaptation of the Michael Morpurgo story about a young boy and his horse during WWI. Tickets are just 10 dollars for students, and are available at www.townhalltheater.org or over the phone at (802)-382-9222.

FEB. 27, 2 - 4 PM

"Still Life and Sculpture" Exhibit Opens

Spent too much time in the museum at the CFA? Try heading over to Brandon Artists Guild this Thursday. The exhibit "Still Life and Sculpture" opens this Friday, and is the first member show of 2014. It will be open through April 29th. For more information call (802)-247-4956, or visit the gallery's website at www.brandonartistsguild.org.

FEB. 27, 5 - 7 PM

Maple Syrup tapping workshop

If Sarah's article on maple syrup inspired you, look no further. This Saturday, Chris Bearor will lead a tapping workshop in Bixby Memorial Library, in Vergennes. Attendees will practice using tubes and buckets on maple trees around the library. For more information, call (802)-877-2211.

MAR. 1, 11 AM - 1 PM

Mardi Gras Casino Night

Viva Ross Vegas, part III! St. Ambrose Church in Bristol will host Mardis Gras Casino night this Saturday. For twenty dollars, including 150 dollars in 'chips,' contestants can win a variety of cool prizes. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. For more information call (802)-453-5599.

MAR. 1, 7 - 9 PM

Carnivale in Vergennes

Based on the annual Carnevale in Venice, Italy, this gala will feature music, acrobats, a raffle, a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres and lots of masked guests. Tickets are 50 dollars, and the proceeds will benefit the Vergennes Opera House and the Vergennes Partnership. For more information on the festive event, visit www.vergennesoperahouse.org or call (802)-877-6737.

MAR. 2, 7 - 10 PM

5k Ski Race

Head over to Ripton this Sunday for the annual 5k cross-country ski race! For 10 dollars, attendees can compete in classical, skate, and adaptive categories, all while enjoying delicious BBQ. Not a skier? Show up a few hours early (at 9 am) and watch the five and under "Lollipop" race. For more information call (802)-443-2744

MAR. 2, 10 AM - 12:30 PM

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OPINIONS

The Middlebury Campus

Harvard, Yale, Middlebury?

What pops into someone's head when you tell them you go to Middlebury College? Languages? 350.org? The price tag? Or have they never even heard of it?

EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* as decided by the editorial board.

This past week Bill Burger, vice president of communications, pondered these questions when soliciting feedback from students, faculty and the board of trustees on the direction of the college's brand. Though there was copious talk about a new logo, a website overhaul and renaming, the current lack of diversity is still the biggest issue the College faces as

it reevaluates its brand.

Whether socioeconomic, ethnic, religious, first-generation or simply geographic, diversity is an essential aspect of the liberal arts experience and is a part of what signifies an elite institution. Despite the college's best efforts, our applicant pool is still primarily white students from the Northeast whose families went to college and can afford full tuition. The desire to shift this paradigm is perhaps more than anything what should be driving the rebranding process. The ability to attract applicants from a variety of backgrounds is what marks a prestigious institution. Middlebury needs a brand that will make it a household name across a range of backgrounds.

In a video circulated in Dean Shirley Collado's recent all-school email on our branding process, consultant Mark Neustadt presented some of his findings after a yearlong study of the College. His research showed that emphasizing Middlebury as a globally-oriented liberal arts school tipped the balance in the College's favor among non-white students from across the country, while emphasizing that something like sustainability often had no effect and even was a deterrent for some in the study.

This doesn't mean that we're abandoning our environmental focus, but it

does show that framing the college with a larger global perspective could put us in the right direction. With that in mind, it is little surprise that we are talking about connecting the dots within our growing Middlebury empire by incorporating our name into the schools abroad and emphasizing our Monterey graduate opportunities in international studies. We need an outward, global orientation to bring in applicants outside of the college's typical pool.

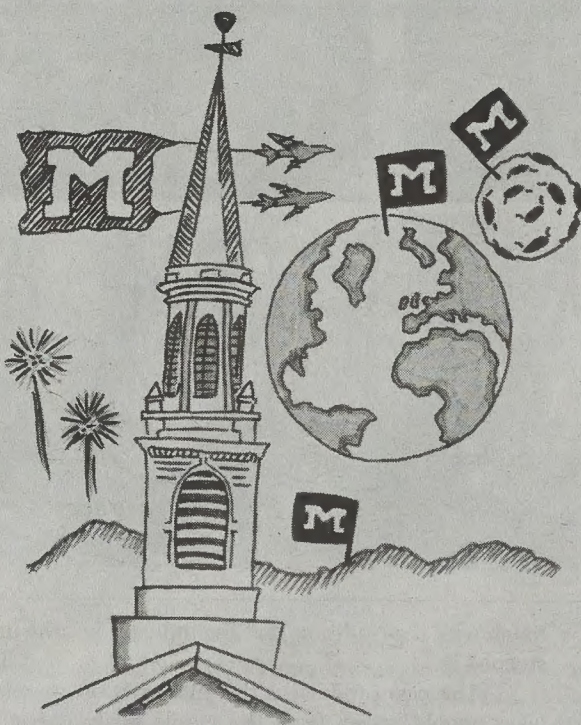
The question is, how will this shift in branding change life at Middlebury?

There can be no question that diversity will enhance academic and social life on campus, but what do we lose by expanding our offerings around the globe and emphasizing graduate programs to attract that diversity?

Thus far, elite institutions like Harvard or Yale have become household names both nationally and to some degree internationally by expanding their graduate programs and research opportunities, while also diversifying their academic specialties and increasing their global focus. They have garnered prestige, but at the cost of their undergraduate experience, which was inevitably sidelined as more advanced opportunities came about.

This level of prestige is what Middlebury wants for its brand, but we need to do it without shooting ourselves in the foot by sacrificing our emphasis on teacher-student relationships, tight knit community and undergraduate opportunities. We do need to address diversity on this campus, but we should not go about it by diverting our focus to schools abroad and graduate programs.

We call on the college to continue this important dialogue throughout the spring and think critically about how we can attract diversity without changing our current investment in undergraduate life. It is time for a change, but it needs to be done thoughtfully and deliberately.



The Middlebury Campus

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TOLERANCE: MORE THAN A NUMBER OF BEERS

You don't control where you came from or how you were born. You don't have control whether you were born with

privilege any more than you can control whether you were born without it. The one thing you do

have absolute control over is your actions.

NOTES FROM THE DESK

Edward O'Brien '17 is an Opinions Editor from Lincoln, Mass.

I don't want anyone to think that I am blaming straight people for being straight in this article. I want to blame a select group of straight individuals for their actions. Specifically, I want to call out an instance of homophobia that happened at the Q&A sponsored "Olympic Gaymes" party last Friday night and explain to these individuals what their probably thoughtless actions mean in my mind as a gay person (I cannot speak for anyone else).

Not much else was going on last Friday night other than the Olympic Gaymes, so a lot of straight people ended up attending, which is good in principle. That being said, there were some straight people there who should not have been. Yes, the party last Friday was open to everyone, but it was also a safe space for queer Midd kids. And in any safe space, it is absolutely inappropriate to make anyone feel uncomfortable for being gay.

I don't think I'm the only member of the queer community that feels like these parties are the only place where I can go up to a guy and start dancing or flirting with him without the fear of humiliation (fear of rejection, maybe, but not humiliation). Last Friday, however, a group of guys became aggressive when other men tried to make an advance. When one man started to dance with one of them they would tell him to "Fuck off!" They acted visibly upset and disgusted... at a gay party!

To those guys: I'm sorry if you're not entirely comfortable with another man hitting on you. I know how sensitive a subject your sexuality can be, believe me. So I can see how an immediate emotional response might be to get defensive. But you have absolutely no right to get angry at gay men for expressing interest in you at a gay party. If you're really that homophobic, don't come. If you didn't know it was a gay party (I am told the rainbow flag fell down from the window), sorry, that's still no excuse. Not only is it never okay to make a gay man feel bad for expressing interest in you, but it is especially not okay in our safe space. Telling a guy to "fuck off" sends the message that he has somehow wronged you or acted inappropriately by being attracted to you. He hasn't. That suggestion is ridiculous. If someone likes you, it is a compliment. Just appreciate it and move on.

Advice: being hit on by someone with a sexual orientation incompatible with yours is not an impossible situation to deal with, or even a hard one (perhaps an awkward one, but that's life). I've certainly never seen a gay man angrily rebuff a woman who tries to hit on him at a "straight" party. I remember one man at the Homo Estas Q&A party who, when I came up to him, smiled and shook his head politely. Immediately, I knew that he meant he was straight. That was an appropriate response and I applaud him for it. Take notes: that's how you do it. We both walked away feeling fine, with neither of our sexual orientations threatened. No harm, no foul. Just an inherent hazard in a room full of people with different sexual orientations.

To add to the inappropriate behavior last Friday, some men felt it necessary to aggressively try to make out with the women there. First of all, you shouldn't be doing that anywhere; a man trying to do anything "aggressively" with a woman is never okay. If a woman doesn't want to kiss

you, you need to accept that. Once more for emphasis: it is never ever okay to repeatedly try to force yourself on a woman. But, if it can possibly ever be less okay, it would be at a party where a large portion of the women are probably not straight. Men, when you are at a gay party, you might find that fewer and fewer women want to make out with you. In case you haven't already figured this out, this is probably because they want to kiss other women! By repeatedly making advances, you are engaging in both sexual harassment and intolerance at the same time.

I'm all for straight people coming to gay parties, even straight couples coming to gay parties. In fact, I invite most of my straight friends whenever there's a gay party. But this probably isn't the place to be looking for a straight hook up (on principle it's fine, but statistically your chances just aren't as good. Sorry and welcome to our world).

The behavior at this party was shocking and disappointing for me. I'd like to think that this problem was nothing more than a bunch of thoughtless, drunk guys being stupid. But I also have to admit to myself that it probably wasn't. I can convince myself that these men do not think of themselves as homophobic and even that they probably don't actively dislike gay men. But if I believe this, I also have to accept that they do not think much at all about their effect on minorities.

I would hope is not too much to ask to reject homophobia at gay parties, and I would hope that most straight people who saw this behavior would step in. Therefore, I urge the reader to be conscientious of his or her impact on others. I hope that people will read this and take something away from it, because the straight guys in this situation may not remember what happened in the morning, but the gay guys will.

In Defense of EUR

I did not plan to write for the *Campus* this semester. I am studying abroad and had hoped to spare the Middlebury community my whining and myself the dangerously inflated ego that being published in the *Campus* might cause.

And, frankly, I was looking to get away. Alas, many things are easier said than

done. Ideally, someone better read than I would construct the argument I present below. Due to the apparent absence of such a voice in this debate, I feel compelled to add my own.

During the last semester, the SGA began to consider the issue of distribution requirements. As a dutiful cabinet member whose position had little connection to academic matters, I decided it was best to keep my opinions private. Now, however, I can be more candid.

While it is important that we discuss and debate the value and nature of our education, I believe that efforts to remove the Europe (EUR) requirement are misguided. Studying Europe — its history, culture, literature, languages — is essential to a liberal education. Contrary to what proponents of reform argue, European thought is, particularly with regards to our education, more important than that of other parts of the world.

I suspect that last sentence is controversial. It shouldn't be. This is not a matter of pro-Western jingoism. Liberal education is a European invention. It is the product of centuries of thought which, aside from a crucial period in the middle ages in which Islamic scholars translated, interpreted, and resuscitated the likes of Aristotle and Plato, is uniquely Western. This is not to say that only Europeans can be liberally educated. The value of a Western education is that it is universal. Rational inquiry is not the domain of Europeans alone. The rational study of human nature transcends class, race and sex, even as it gives insight into all of those subjects. Sciences and humanities as we conceive of them today are the products of a European tradition. It is no coincidence that Nietzsche, Marx, and Freud — perhaps the greatest critics of Western thought — studied Aristotle and Plato, Hobbes and Locke, Homer and Virgil. More recent critics such as Richard Rorty and Foucault did likewise. If one seeks to criticize the West, one should study it first.

As Requirement Reformers correctly argue, education has moral implications. What we study affects how we think. Most education systems teach their stu-

dents what to think. They seek to impose a belief system on their students. Liberal (Western) education takes a different approach. Its goal is more ambitious and more just. At the end of a successful liberal education, one is not expected to hold any particular belief, but rather to be able to think for oneself. The study of Europe is not merely the study of a certain ethnicity or language, but rather a necessary part of an attempt to free one's mind.

Critics of Western education often point out all the bad things for which Europeans are responsible. Yet they attribute these sins not to the flawed human condition, but rather to the much derided "dead white males." Thus, one rarely hears complaints about the Ottomans and no one seems to mind that Jordanians occupied the West Bank and Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip. Not to mention China's ongoing oppression of its Uyghur Muslim population or the atrocities the Indian government has committed in Gujarat. Alongside the Western tradition's very real errors is a debate about the Good. In other words, it is hardly coincidental that we spend so much time criticizing British imperialism while no one in Qatar seriously complains about the slave-like conditions Egyptian and Palestinian workers face in Dubai's shiny new hotels. Our self-criticism distinguishes us far more than our sinful past and present.

The ridiculousness of an argument over whether to require the study of Europe is that it is itself a Western discourse. If we do not study the history and development of that conversation, how will we ever understand the purpose of a Middlebury education?



NOLAN ELLSWORTH

Middlebury-U?

NOTES FROM THE DESK

Sarah Sicular '16 is a Copy Editor from New York, N.Y.

I hope that none of you will judge me on the following dilemma I faced.

I visited Middlebury on March 31st, 2010 (I remember the day because it was the first time I had ever truly fallen in love with a place). The beauty of the campus, with its trees starting to bloom and the backdrop of snow-peaked mountains, struck me immediately as a sign of a tranquil environment, exactly what I was seeking in a college. As I went on the tour and my tour guide elaborated on the academics, extracurricular and social opportunities, I became more and more convinced that I absolutely had to spend four years in this place.

Come the next fall, however, I was trying to convince myself that I loved Dartmouth (the Ivy I thought was most similar to Midd) because of the Ivy-obsessed culture of my high school. Dartmouth is obviously a great school, but it had none of the attributes I wanted in a college. In fact, I hated it; the classes I sat in on, the appearance of the campus, the prominence of the frats, basically everything. Essentially, the only thing Dartmouth had that Middlebury didn't was the prestige of being an Ivy League school, which, not to sound totally superficial, I truly craved. Today, I thank my lucky stars that I came to my senses and sent in my application to Middlebury rather than Dartmouth in October of 2010 (though I do feel bad about making my best friend write me a peer recommendation. But hey, sunk costs, amirite fellow econ majors?).

With the recent brand re-evaluation (which is covered extensively in this issue), I have several concerns about the future of the Middlebury undergraduate experience. First and foremost, (and this might read as greedy, selfish and/or

entitled, attitudes I don't intend and for which I apologize) with diversifying our image to emphasize the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), the C.V.-Starr Middlebury Schools Abroad, and the Bread Loaf School of English more, I worry about the diverting of funds from the undergraduate institution into these graduate and abroad programs. I want to ensure, as people say, that we 'maintain the campus' current lifestyle'. I want to ensure that we still have the funds, for example, to bring the Dalai Lama to campus, to host speakers such as Wade Davis (a follow-up to whose discussion is taking place this week and should definitely be attended!), and ensure that MCAB is able to host as many activities as it currently does. I will seriously drop out of this school if funding for the biweekly trivia night at Crossroads is cut (shoutout to the Ron Liebowitz Search Committee!).

One purpose of this rebranding, it seems, is to increase our presence on the national and international stage of colleges. As I previously mentioned, the only thing Dartmouth had going for it, in my mind, was its preeminence. So shouldn't I be happy that Middlebury is looking to increase its prestige, since that was the only reason I didn't want to apply early here was its lack of prestige, at least relative to Dartmouth? My short answer, at least now, is no, because I have come to realize that prestige often comes at the expense of the undergraduate experience. For example, many universities' research labs overlook undergraduate students when seeking out research assistants, and I worry that if our brand is reconfigured such that our graduate institutions begin to share center stage with our Vermont undergraduate campus, then we will fall into the same trap.

In short, although we are repackaging our brand to play up our other campuses, both domestic and international, I truly hope that the focus of the entity (or whatever you may call it) of Middlebury remains squarely on the eponymous campus and the undergraduate students. It would be a real shame if years from now, when my kids inevitably matriculate to my Alma Mater, they'll be attending 'Middlebury University'.

IT'S A WHITE WOMAN'S WORLD AFTER ALL

A sea of blonde and brunette ponytails filled the social space for a discussion on body image disorders and ideals for women led by Courtney Martin, author of "Perfect Girl." She argued that a dire consequence of college women pursuing the image of "the perfect girl" is the self-hate of the "starving daughter": formed from frustration with having dark circles under one's eyes to eating disorders and compulsive fitness habits. Martin called on women to take action by using campus resources and surrounding oneself with positive-minded people.

While Martin seemed to skirt describing any characteristics of her "perfect girl" — she seemed to imply that any type of woman can strive to this ideal — to me she named the most important feature of all by not mentioning it at all: whiteness. By not meaningfully engaging with the way that

race shapes her analysis, she fed my skepticism of mainstream feminism.

The standard of beauty in America is the skinny, white, blonde woman. It is a heteronormative ideal that women should strive to embody and men should strive to conquer. Martin's "starving daughter" is this woman.

She is all around us, although in reality is very few of us. Take a quick flip through fashion magazines or a stroll through beauty parlors at a department store. If you search the word "beauty" in Google images, chiseled chins and rouged cheeks grace the page. This lack of diversity in women's body shapes and skin colors reinforces what I perceive as a type of beauty that women are conditioned to strive for in America.

Growing up in a community as a black male and in a household where my mother and other black women

earnestly invested in perms, hair relaxers and weaves, I interpreted these actions as attempts to skip the negative labels created and associated with the innate quality of knotty hair. While some women might argue that they are doing it for self-satisfaction, I feel that there is a strong media influence to assimilate into the white standard of beauty.

Of course black men are not immune from white standards of beauty, even if sexism keeps us from acknowledging it. We claim we keep our hair close-cut because it looks good, when in reality, racism likely taught us it looked good because there was not enough length to form a nap. I change my appearance to combat and flee the negative portrayals of black men in the media. If I dressed and spoke in a certain way, I assume a lot of the people I currently interact with at Middlebury would feel unsafe and be hesitant to approach me.

During my brief time here at Middlebury, I have found that feminism embraces white women's privilege, championing a cause driven by a certain group of women for the benefit of a particular group of women. While I want to fundamentally champion the rights of all women, the contemporary mainstream feminism movement in America seems only to embrace the white woman's narrative, as the only narrative victim oppressed by the hegemonic, patriarchal forces that be. I cannot support a feminism that is led exclusively by the women who crowded into McCullough; a feminism that, while aiming for total equality, does not acknowledge itself as a political sphere entwined with racism.

READER OPED

Charles Griggs '16 is from Chicago, Ill.

"During my brief time here at Middlebury, I have found that feminism embraces white women's privilege."

Who Run the World? Google.

WARM GLOW

Hudson Cavanagh '14 is from New York, N.Y.

Inherent in the spectacular potential of companies like Google to reshape society, however, is the profound societal danger associated with such innovation. Navigating the evolving relationship between humanity and technology will be among the greatest challenges of our generation.

Google's advertising and analytics software, its unmatched access to personal data, its free software offerings, its mobile products, and many more of its services are all on the cutting edge. But these offerings pale in comparison to Google's long-term vision. Google has played a key role in redefining the relationship between humans, geographic space and software. For example, Google's constantly expanding street view service is now ubiquitous in just about every major commerce hub across the world, including key regions in the global south. As of last December, their latest fleet of 25 self-driving cars had driven around 600,000 miles without a major accident (far better than an average driver). Google glasses are straight out of a futuristic spy movie, except that Google puts such technology in the hands of consumers.

Other initiatives could have enormous political impacts as well. Google's "uProxy" initiative, still in "restricted beta" mode, is a peer-to-peer service that allows one to

establish an encrypted Internet connection with somebody they trust, allowing a user to evade essentially any government surveillance or fire-wall. Its "Project Tango" aims to give its mobile devices a human-scale understanding of space and motion in the real world, enabling the phone to process not only its location, but every physical detail about that location, calling to mind the fictional technology developed by Wayne Industries in *The Dark Knight* (2008), which uses sonar to map all of Gotham in real-time.

They are also making significant investments beyond just software: their appropriately titled Google X, a secretive research initiative, has been conducting research on sophisticated robotics and machine learning. In the last year, Google has acquired some of the most advanced and promising robotics companies in the world, including DeepMind, a firm that specializes in advanced machine learning called "Deep Learning", and Boston Dynamics, makers of a slew of biomimicry-inspired robots such as Cheetah, a robot that can run up to 28.3 miles per hour as well as numerous other firms with diverse specialties, talent and intellectual property. Google envisions manufacturing applications of these robotics capacities, potentially even challenging Amazon in high-tech manufacturing.

These initiatives appear to be the components of a wildly ambitious — and perhaps still amorphous — vision of next-generation technologies that exist at the intersection of robotics, artificial intelligence, big data and consumer usability. Google is not only attempting to create disruptive technologies, it is pushing towards the prec-

ipice of a paradigm-shifting technological revolution. Fittingly perhaps its most ambitious vision is an outgrowth of its very first offering: its search engine. Ray Kurzweil, the director of engineering at Google and founder of the Singularity Institute, intends to help the company develop its search engine to behave like a "cybernetic friend," that "will know the answer to your question before you have asked it, [because] It will have read every email you've ever written, every document, every idle thought you've ever tapped into a search-engine box. It will know you better..., perhaps, than even yourself."

Tamar Yehoshua, director of product management on Google Search, shares Kurzweil's vision: "Our vision is the Star Trek computer...You can talk to it — it understands you, and it can have a conversation with you." Though Google openly admits such ambitions are implausible in the short-term, Google is not merely speculating. Its bombastic idealism is central to its corporate philosophy and strategy. Google's profitability allows them to make long-term investments that are essentially unmatched in both scale and audacity. Google's market dominance, rather than constraining innovation (as most monopolies do), seems to amplify both the rate and scale of innovation; for better or worse, we are witnessing the astonishingly improbable convergence of profitability, ambition and big-picture thinking that may turn out to be a core driver of 21st century innovation. Google often feels more like a movement than a corporation, publicly representing itself as a company in which employees are "true believers," passionate-

ly investing their intellect and creativity in creating something they believe transcends themselves — a future yet-to-be constructed. Their corporate philosophy echoes such bold values: "We set ourselves goals we know we can't reach yet, because we know that by stretching to meet them we can get further than we expected...We try to anticipate needs not yet articulated by our global audience, and meet them with products and services that set new standards." The moral implications of Google's growth — and the growth of other high-tech companies — are profound. Our reaction to the explosive rate of technological advance is of the utmost importance for the future of humanity. Though predicting Google's impact on society is impossible, it is naive to dismiss the possibility that Google, or other private actors, could fundamentally alter the balance of power between private corporations and public institutions, the barrier between physical space and "the cloud," or even the structural organization of human society.

Our generation has the responsibility to act conscientiously in this critical juncture in the evolution of the relationship between humanity and technology, because how we respond in the coming decades will have a significant impact on the future of human society. It would behoove the Middlebury community and other centers of critical investigation, to engage in collective dialogue about how best to harness the potential of looming technological innovations while avoiding their pitfalls. Our ability to navigate these ethical dilemmas may be our generation's legacy — or our greatest calamity.

Hangin' Tough

If I were to try to describe it, I would root my answer in dichotomies: overwhelming yet exhilarating, unknown yet expected,

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Annie Grayer '17 is from Westchester, N.Y.

Will Ferrell, but rather the trials and tribulations, the rewards and frustrations of being a new kid.

This communal experience is not only something I can relate to, but is my current way of life. As a freshman feb in my first semester at Middlebury, my life is rooted in awkward eye contact, the hey-hi-how-are-you millisecond conversation, the endless scan of the dining hall, and the looming question of how my voice will blend into this unified college community. Therefore, my friend (yay to making new friends!), we are truly in this together.

If I were to be meeting you for the first time, I would show you my widest smile and make sure I made welcoming eye contact. I'd probably talk about growing up in Westchester, NY, coming from a divorced family and having three siblings. I would not forget to mention my love of doing anything outdoors and my passion for photography, even if I do not do it as much anymore. Anything with peanut butter, 500 Days of Summer, and Brett Dennen would be my responses to all the basic food/movie/music questions, with my voice cracking as little as possible. I'd try to make a joke. I'd hope/wait for you to laugh. We definitely would not talk about my fears of being alone or not knowing what I want to do with my life... at least at first. I would give you a hug goodbye because I am a sensitive

person and would walk away wondering what that first encounter meant.

But I am getting ahead of myself.

I am here to uncover what happens once the preplanned meet-and-greets and orientations come to an end and all you are left with is your room key, class schedule, and a deep knot in your throat that is encased with fear. How do we as human beings learn to socialize, adapt, and co-exist with our environment? How do we create relationships and friendships out of thin air without letting preconceived notions cloud our judgment? Do we ever transition out of new kid status into seasoned professional? If we all come from different backgrounds, how do we all eventually homogenize into

"Midd kids with our Nalgene low?" Why, if everyone at some point has experienced it, is being new so hard?

I want you to be the primary witnesses to the unsung heroes of this campus: those who are willing to put themselves out there and truly be themselves in an environment where cliques and reputations are

the status quo. Those who are willing to trip and back track and even momentarily lose faith are the role models I want to focus on, because if the end goal is finding your niche in college, the road is going to be bumpy.

This column is for everyone; it's about anyone who has been that someone with no one to sit with, or no one to rely on, and yet does not get discouraged. In the end we all find our people and our place and laugh at the time when we did not know what/where/when/why, but that is not what I want to focus on. Continue reading if you can handle the awkwardness, the insecurities and the questioning that is crucial to finding your identity.

Believing that "not all those who wander are lost," I introduce you to a New Kid on the Block who is eager, excited and nervous to meet you.



CHARLOTTE FAIRLESS

METHODS OF ENVIRONMENTALISM

The discipline of political science has come quite a long way since Aristotle's *Politics*, arguably the classic work in the study of politics, which asked and answered questions about our nature as political animals. Whereas Aristotle's methods in that book were primarily observational and logical, academics working in the study of politics today have rigorously developed and tested analytical and empirical methods at their disposal to "define, describe, explain and evaluate [political] phenomena." However, beyond a descriptive account of why political phenomena play out the way they do, one might wonder what exactly an empirically-minded political science has to contribute to ventures of a more pragmatic type, especially when we're presented with normative problems.

If the political problems that help give rise to environmental crises are primarily problems of action — that is, questions that require a particular answer that prescribes action in a given situation — then it seems like answering questions about how groups respond (or might respond) to a given political action should be useful, at the very least. That, maybe uncontroversially, might be what political science can be said to do. The graphs and tables displayed in journal articles and book chapters offer metrics (think changes in GDP, voter approval ratings, and the like) that give us supposedly objective means of looking at how various political events are caused. If all we wanted the study of politics to do was tell us what percentage of states a candidate needed to win in order to win the presidency, or tell us how Congressional spending rates have changed over time, then descriptive and analytical methods might be able to tell us the whole story.

Unfortunately, describing the way our government works isn't the only project political studies have facing them; we might remember that the primary concern of Aristotle's *Politics* was to identify the best type of state and how citizens in an ideal state might behave. As critical as the positive study of how humans interacted with one another was, his ultimate task was normative; the primary object of inquiry was to provide us with an idea of how the state and its citizens should act. Nearly everything that concerned the ancient study of politics centered around notions of the good — a far cry from the subject matter of today's political science.

Maybe an obsession with power politics is why we've yet to find a political solution to the environmental problems we face on the local, national and global level. Is the

study of the good too far removed from what we call political science? Commentators have criticized the methodologies political scientists use for a number of reasons.

GREEN PIECE

Julian Macrone '14 is from Clifton, N.J.

In a 2012 New York Times article

Jacqueline Stevens, Professor of Political Science at Northwestern University, writes (rather harshly) that "Research aimed at political prediction is doomed to fail. At least if the idea is to predict more accurately than a dart-throwing chimp" and that her discipline has picked up the nasty habit of "mistaking probability studies and statistical significance for knowledge."

New York University's Bertell Ollman, is somewhat less critical of the discipline's methods, but more so of its motives — "...with a few honorable exceptions— [Political Science] presents a view of society that either misses, or dismisses, or at best trivializes the fact that the political game is rigged." While not wholly dismissive of departments' attachment to Karl Popper's scientific method, Ollman derides the discipline for perpetuating an impossibly one-sided dialogue centered around the desires of those in power.

And finally, an anonymous contributor to *The Economist*, Ripton, Vermont's "MD," while commenting on the efficacy of attempts to model the outcomes of presidential elections, points out that the kind of retroactive tweakings frequently made to predictive political theories don't typically help validate the scientific methods employed in crafting forecasting models. If political scientists continue to ask for research dollars to develop models and other predictive tools that might help reaffirm its methods as "scientific," then the ideal should be to strive for real scientific rigor.

Unfortunately, scientific rigor is only one of a number of tools that we'll need to advance goals related to climate change, conservation and other environmental problems. Another large substantial of the equation concerns ironing out what precisely we think the best way of living on this planet is; what I'm suggesting is that while models might help us in making decisions by providing us with an idea of how political moves may be responded to, they can't tell us much about how the masses should respond, and what they should demand of government. Environmental problems ask us for right action that considers more than just power interests — they ask that political power be exercised justly.

An Inconvenient Truth About Carbon Neutrality

READER OPED

Max Kagan '14 is from Freeport, Maine.

example, Middlebury collects data on where each and every woodchip burned in our biomass plant is harvested and milled.

This seems like a rational approach to limiting our carbon impact, but it is precisely the opposite approach we take with our students. The detailed accounting standards laid out in the 2008 Climate Action Implementation Plan have plenty to say about woodchips, but do not include any similar consideration of the impact of the student body.

Of course, students are not woodchips. For one, students exert a far larger impact on the climate. Woodchips can be transported thousands at a time in the back of a truck. By contrast, most students fly to campus or take a personal car. The woodchips make a one-way trip; Middlebury students come and go several times throughout the year. And while Middlebury scrupulously limits its woodchip consumption to a 75-mile radius of the college, we proudly trumpet the fact that Middlebury students hail from all 50 states and over 70 countries.

Middlebury's definition of "carbon neutrality" requires us to assume that students miraculously appear in rural Vermont every September before mysteriously vanishing once again every May. We are eager to track and quantify our carbon footprint — at least as long as it does not require us

to make the painful choices that true carbon neutrality would entail.

The only real reason for excluding students from the carbon calculus is that it would be too hard — hard not just because the climatological impact of student air travel would prove nigh on impossible to mitigate, but also because true carbon neutrality would require us to compromise on other values we hold dear. In an age where long-distance travel is only possible through burning fossil fuels, how can we credibly claim to be both "carbon neutral" and "global"?

Maybe some would make the case that Middlebury is only responsible for travel it directly funds, and thus we are justified in excluding student travel from our calculations. But this is a slight-of-hand argument that masks the inconvenient truth that Middlebury College is just as responsible for student travel to and from campus as it is for burning thousands of gallons of no. 6 heating oil. It is not as though the College is passively witness to an onslaught of students who happen to arrive each fall. Rather, we actively cultivate a diverse, geographically disparate student body through dedicated recruitment efforts and financial subsidies in the form of aid, knowing full well that this leads to an increase in carbon emissions.

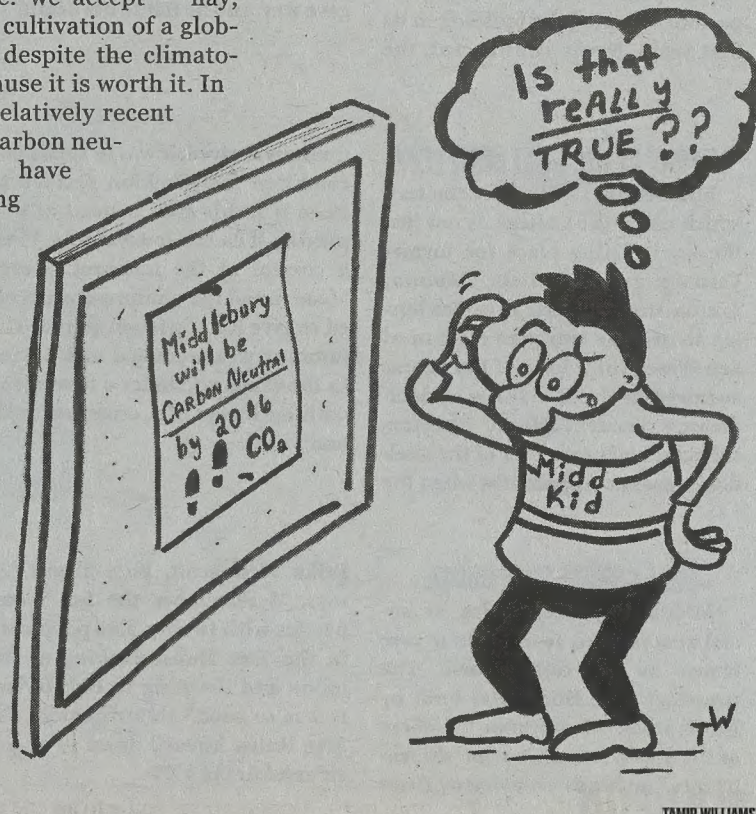
If we truly care about fighting climate change, there are hugely significant actions the college could take immediately. I do not mean the existing feel-good measures: turning off the lights in unoccupied rooms, having students ride the bus to the Snow Bowl or switching food suppliers in the dining hall. I mean drastic cuts that would vastly reduce the carbon emissions associated with students travelling to and from campus. These

include closing the C.V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad, revoking all financial aid to international students, suspending our participation in the Davis Scholars program and ending the Chicago Posse as well as the new Los Angeles expansion. Middlebury could even limit admission to those who reside in the Northeast by requiring that students use mass transit to and from the college — both Boston and New York are accessible by bus and train, and there are more than enough qualified students from these two cities to fill future freshman classes.

But these options are not even on the table — and with good reason. The answer is simple: we accept — nay, encourage — the cultivation of a global student body despite the climatological costs because it is worth it. In addition to our relatively recent commitment to carbon neutrality, we also have a longstanding institutional commitment to diversity. Too many people take a fundamentalist approach to saving the environment while ignoring the fact that all actions have costs and benefits, and, sometimes, the benefits of burning carbon may indeed outweigh the costs. I hap-

pen to think that a pound of carbon spent furthering the educational mission of Middlebury College is a pound we are justified in spending. Judging from the fact that most students will fully emit thousands of pounds of carbon each year in their journeys to and from campus, it appears that nearly all my peers already agree with me.

This is not to say we should not strive for greater efficiency. But "carbon neutrality" is only possible through arbitrary accounting and heroic assumptions. Being a responsible steward of the environment is an important ambition for Middlebury College, but it should never be our only goal.



TAMIR WILLIAMS

Bring AAL into a Globalized World

READER OPED

Midd Included on behalf of the undersigned students

ment. The current system requires students to take one class with a large focus on each of the following geographic areas: NOR (Northern America — US or Canada), EUR (Europe), AAL (Africa, Asia, and Latin America), and CMP (Comparative). Many on campus have pointed out that grouping Africa, Asia and Latin America together does not make much sense.

In response, this new campaign proposes that students be required to take one NOR course, due to the location of our institution, one CMP course, and two courses that focus on one of any of the following regions AFR (Africa), ASI (Asia), EUR (Europe), LAC (Latin American and Caribbean), MDE (Middle East). As some of the students behind this proposal, we want to address Kagan's argument and expand on the reasons why we believe a change in our current system is absolutely necessary and appropriate.

Kagan acknowledges that Middlebury's current system is fundamentally Eurocentric, but asserts that such a biased system is "wholly appropriate" because this institution was founded in a European tradition and on European values. According to him, "Middlebury's

structure as an institute of higher learning dates back to the European Middle Ages; its values harken from the European Enlightenment;" therefore, it would be wrong for any Middlebury student to be allowed to graduate without studying Europe.

Here, Kagan incorrectly assumes that making the EUR credit an option rather than a requirement will result in a lack of study of Europe. He ignores that, even when studying other regions of the world, we are learning about Europe. For example, in a class about African Politics, we learn about European colonization. Even in classes that are not region focused, such as literature, science, theater and economics, students are constantly exposed to Western thought and European tradition. Thus, making the EUR credit an option rather than a requirement does not mean that students will never be exposed to European thought. It does mean that students who wish to study other regions of the world will have greater educational opportunities, while students who wish to pursue the study of Europe can still do so.

There is no doubt that the founding of the college, a school whose original mission was "to train young men from Vermont and neighboring states for the ministry and other learned professions," was based on European values. But should that mission from 1800 dictate our institutional values today? We think not.

While Kagan's argument might seem appealing to some, it is limited in that it disregards the new global context

we live in. Today's era of globalization calls for a very different kind of education than the one the College offered 200 years ago. The world has changed, and so has Middlebury and its mission. Today, part of our institution's mission is to "strive to engage students' capacity for rigorous analysis and independent thought within a wide range of disciplines and endeavors, and to cultivate the intellectual, creative, physical, ethical, and social qualities essential for leadership in a rapidly changing global community." Even though Kagan is correct to point out that we were founded in European tradition, Middlebury's current mission statement does not include "Europe's intellectual tradition."

Fortunately, Middlebury College has realized that the world we live in today calls for a new education for students who come from all over the world and who will go off to be leaders in both Western and non-Western regions, not just an education for the "young men from Vermont" who will serve in the ministry. As we mentioned earlier, however, our curriculum still remains Eurocentric. We still have a lot of work to do to truly achieve that new mission, but changing the Cultures and Civilizations requirement is a key first step in the right direction towards a curriculum better suited for educating this new generation of global citizens.

Throughout its history, Middlebury has been at the forefront of innovation and progress in higher education. After thoroughly researching the distribution and cultures requirements among other institutions of higher education, last year's SGA found that most institutions lack systems that allow students to be exposed to a variety of cultures and civilizations. By changing the cultures and civilizations requirements, Middlebury

can once again blaze a trail in higher education.

We know change can be difficult, but it is necessary for progress. Middlebury itself acknowledges that it is "a liberal arts college of the first rank" as a direct result "of a process of growth and change that began in 1800." We must not stop that process of continuous self-reflection and improvement for fear of the work that this change will require; we must not stall our progress by clinging on to outdated and exclusive requirements.

To improve our educational opportunities and really be a 21st century first class liberal arts college that educates global citizens, we must revisit our cultures and civilizations requirement. While we understand that our proposal does not present a perfect alternative, we strongly believe that it proposes a system that is far better than the one we currently have. Moreover, our proposal is a work in progress. We have started this conversation among students, faculty and administrators, in the hope that as a community we can create and implement the best alternative possible. We are not the first generation of Middlebury students to be raising this issue, but we hope that we will be the last. We must not wait any longer.

Adriana Ortiz-Burnham '17
Daniela Barajas '14.5
David Ollin Pesqueira '17
Douglass Gledhill '14
Jihad Hajjouji '14
Hanna Hemenger '13.5
Kate McCreary '15
Greta Neubauer '14.5
Jiya Pandya '17
Molly Stuart '15

Visit GO/AAL for more information.

STORIED WALLS & HALLOWED H

By Emilie Munson & Isabel Stillman Graphic By Olivia Allen

PAINTER HALL

The oldest college building in the state, Painter Hall was constructed in 1814 for \$8,000. The College's original library, the first bathrooms on campus, and a two-story gymnasium occupied the building in its first years. Newly constructed, the

building's chimney malfunctioned in the fall of 1817 and beloved Professor of Greek and Latin Solomon M. Allen climbed to the roof to fix the problem. But during the climbing, the scaffolding below Allen gave way, and he fell to his death.



1

MUMMY IN THE WEST CEMETERY

Middlebury's West Cemetery, which abuts the College, is not just the final resting place for former Vermonters: Egyptian Mummy Amum-Her-Khephesh-Ef is also buried there. The two-year old son of Sen Woset, third king of Egypt, was acquired in the late 1870s by Middlebury resident Henry Sheldon, collector and proprietor of the Sheldon Museum. Apparently, when the

mummy arrived, it was in such poor condition that Sheldon decided to store it in his attic instead of displaying it in the museum. In 1945, a curator at the museum George Mead found the mummy and decided to give it a Christian burial. The mummy was cremated and buried in the cemetery under a tombstone with an image of a cross, an ankh and a bird.



2

GOLF COURSE TREE HOUSE

Middlebury's repertoire of social spaces used to include a Tree House on the Golf Course. The two-story Tree House was built by David Stone '74 and some members of the Sig Ep fraternity, the "ski fraternity," on funds provided by Dean

Erika Wonnacott. Kate Troast '76 says, "I remember the full moon parties with twenty plus people up in the Tree House looking at the moon and listening to Bob Dylan. It was so cool!" Unfortunately, the Tree House burned down in an accidental fire in 1977.



3

EMMA WILLARD HOUSE

This National Historic Landmark is the site of the first girls' school that offered female students an education equal to – and arguably better than – that of young men. A trailblazer in women's edu-

cation, Emma Willard opened a school in her Middlebury home in 1812. Willard later moved her family and her school to Troy, New York, and the College purchased the building in 1959 and used it as the Admissions Office.

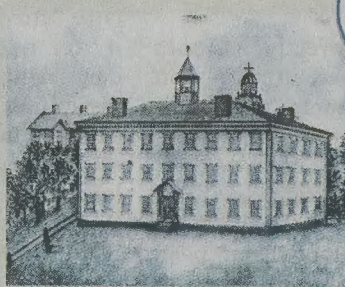


4

TWILIGHT HALL

Built in 1867, Twilight Hall, then called the Academy Building, first housed students of the Grammar School of the town of Middlebury. On Easter Sunday in 1904, a fire destroyed the entire inside of the building, but it was soon reconstructed to match its original in-

ternal architecture. For the next eighty years, the building served as the College Street Graded School for children of the town. The College purchased and renovated the building in 1984 and gave it its current name, in honor of Alexander Lucius Twilight (class of 1823), the first African-American US citizen to graduate from college.



5

MCCULLOUGH GYMNASIUM

Ex-governor of Vt. John G. McCullough funded the majority of what is now McCullough Student Center in 1912. For 37 years, the building functioned as a gymnasium for men only. In 1949, the gymnasium was opened to women. The Arthur M. Brown Swimming Pool (whose tiles are still visible outside of Midd Express) was constructed at

the rear of the building. But in 1988, the College consolidated its athletic facilities in their present location, and McCullough became the center for the dance program for two years before undergoing a full remodel into the current Student Center. It was not until 2000 that the pool was converted into the Grille, and McCullough became the building we know today.



6

MAIN QUADRANGLE

The main quad of campus (i.e. the space between Old Chapel and Mead Chapel) used to be home to athletics, before Battell Beach became the main destination for

sports teams. While paths now intersect the area to connect Munroe to Voter and McCullough, it used to be a large patch of uninterrupted grass, perfect for practice and games, conveniently located next to the gym.



7

ORGANIC GARDEN

THE MODS

GOLF COURSE ROAD

YOUNGMAN FIELD

3

GOLF COURSE

HALLS





The Secret Life of Narps

By Izzy Fleming and Maddie Webb

The themes of week 2 were immobility, Chinese food and a foreign concept of exercise known colloquially as “squatting.” If those descriptions didn’t make it clear, we’ll spell it out for you: this week was a struggle. Due to severe muscle fatigue, neither of us could physically get out of bed. To give you a mental picture, comforting encouragements via Facetime were needed in order to help each other muster the strength to slither out of bed each morning. If you find yourself perplexed as to why we were so crippled, remember we are NARPs and also had our first trip to the weight room with senior swimmer, Goran Simic ’14, as our trainer.

With clammy hands and quick breathing (never underestimate the strenuous walk from Battell to the gym), we arrived at the fitness center at 8 p.m. sharp on Tuesday. You might wonder why 8 p.m. was our prime time: naturally, we didn’t want to intimidate the football and lax bros with our bulging muscles during typical peak hours, so we chose to share the room with the men’s golf team instead. As we entered the athletic center, we received a text from Goran. “If you’re already there, warm up — we’re doing squats today.” Three mirror pep talks later, we ventured into the unknown.

After an all-business greeting from Goran, we deemed two-toe touches adequate stretching and began a movement known as “air squats.” Goran only needed to see one to realize how little we knew about proper technique. After many adjustments, it finally clicked: all we had to do was pretend like we were dropping it low at an Atwater party.

But our trainer was less than impressed with our inefficient performance. Maddie made the mistake of asking to consolidate her reps of squats in order to increase time for girl talk. We’re sorry, but determining which Biggest Loser coach Goran most closely represented was a time-sensitive and important discussion. (For the record, we concluded he was most like Bob Harper — not because they are both very attractive but because we hadn’t witnessed a particularly sympathetic side to our coach.) Disappointed in our use of time, Goran promptly demanded Maddie add more weights to her squatting bar. Our inability to stop gossiping about all of the athletes around us came to a climax as Goran resorted to setting a timer between our reps so we would stop relaxing on the various padded weight benches that doubled as lounge chairs.

75 pounds on the squat bar later, we were finally set free. The cherry on top to escaping NARP hell, was the following text: “Nice job! I hope you exceeded your personal expectations in terms of how much you can lift!” Heartwarming. Maybe he’s a Jillian after all.

Although we left the training session feeling positive, the second week of training took a turn for the worse on Thursday. The first-year dinner at Atwater ran out of macaroni and cheese, our all-time favorite food. For the record, we have never missed a macaroni and cheese day all year. We have language tables, but there’s macaroni at Proctor? No problem! We’ll ask for a to-go box and bring our precious delicacy along. We are that serious about our macaroni. As you can imagine, our morale after this disastrous event was low, very low. So low that we skipped our first day of training. To all of our fans out there, mom and dad, we are so sorry we failed you. Rather than hitting the gym, we promptly left Atwater, ordered Magic Wok to be delivered to Battell, and watched Grey’s Anatomy. As we slurped our chicken lo-mein with teary eyes, we discussed our failure in between episodes.

We both agreed that we felt like we let ourselves down by skipping a day of training. After a few moments of commiseration, Izzy brought up the wise words of Courtney Martin, the author who had spoken the night before in McCollough Social Space. She told us, “Move in ways that make you feel happy... Our body is giving us impulse about what it needs and wants.” The rest of her talk was devoted to defining a successful girl as one who focuses on well being rather than simply doing it all. Reward yourself with a much-needed nap or, in our case, Chinese food and binge watching trash TV. With another 10 weeks of training ahead of us, we would be naïve to expect no bumps on the road along the way.

MiddKid Who Competed on Jeopardy! Who is Erika Sloan?

By Emilie Munson

As a kid, Erika Sloan ’16 always wanted to be on Jeopardy!. Nearly every night after dinner, her family would watch the trivia show together with Sloan pretending to be a contestant and playing along with the show. Today, the classics major from Simsbury, CT no longer needs to pretend.

This February, Sloan fulfilled her childhood dreams when she watched herself appear on national television, competing on Jeopardy!’s annual College Championships for a grand prize of \$100,000. After submitting an online test last March, Sloan was invited to come to the Jeopardy! studios in New York City to complete another online test, participate in a mock show and do an interview. In November, she found out that she was selected as one of fifteen bright college students to be on the show, making her the College’s second ever Jeopardy! contestant — after Keith Williams ’07.

“It was a little bit of disbelief,” recalls Sloan of how she felt to be chosen for the show. “At first I got [a] voicemail that said ‘Hi, this is Glen from Jeopardy! give me a call back,’ and I was like they wouldn’t be calling me to tell me I didn’t get on the show... So I was hopeful but I didn’t want to expect too much. And then I called and he went through some legal stuff and then he was like, ‘Well, congratulations! You’re on the show.’”

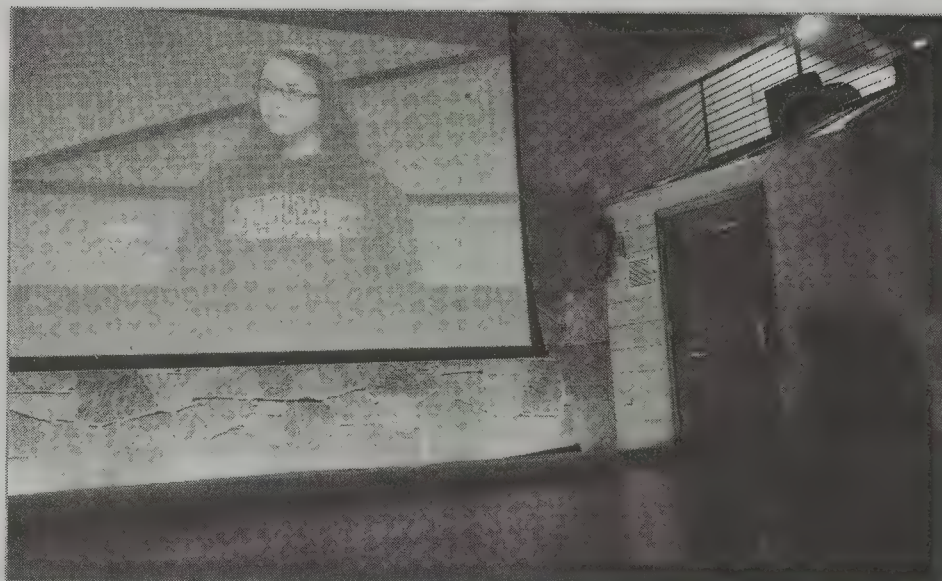
Unlike many of her Jeopardy! competitors, Sloan never was on a quiz team or trivia bowl and has never even been to Trivia Night at the College. Her trivia prowess comes from a general love of learning.

“When I learn something that I find interesting, I absorb it and I guess I have the ability to remember it or at least have it on the tip of my tongue to be able to pull it out.”

To prepare for the taping of the show last month, though, Sloan did not simply lean on her prior knowledge. Sloan reviewed topics that frequently come up in trivia, for example Shakespeare plays and world trivia, and read about the strategies of former players.

Additionally, Sloan spoke to Williams, the college’s only other Jeopardy! participant, who runs a game theory and Jeopardy! wagering blog and helped Sloan learn the intricacies of betting to win. Like back in her childhood, sometimes she would practice by watching the show and pretending to buzz in.

Between the taping of the show in January and airing in February, Sloan was challenged with the task of keeping the results of the show a secret.



NACHEL FRANK

Sloan ’16 watches herself compete on a recent

Overall she says her friends were very impressed with how well she hid the results from them, even though occasionally she slipped up and mentioned a detail about a question that she shouldn’t have revealed.

Sloan’s two episodes, the College Championship’s Quarter and Semi-Finals, aired on Feb. 14 and 19 respectively. In the Quarterfinals, Sloan competed against a contestant from Ball State University and Ohio State University in categories such as U.S. cities, the stage and college football. Sloan trailed in the first round, ending the round in third place over 3,000 points behind the leader. She credits her slow start not to nerves but to trouble with the buzzer.

“The reason I was having so much trouble at the beginning was I just could not beat the other two on the buzzer at all. So every time I knew a question I was getting so frustrated because I just wouldn’t be able to get in.”

Despite these issues in the first round, Sloan proved her trivia talent in the next round by cruising up to a close second place.

In final Jeopardy!, in which contestants may wager a portion of their points, gaining more points if they get the question right but losing points if they get it wrong, Sloan surprised viewers by stealing first place with a correct answer and a confident wager of 3,000 points.

In the Semi-finals — which aired on Feb. 19 — Sloan was challenged by contestants from University of California Berkeley and Harvard University. She remained a stiff contender throughout the entire game, holding onto second place throughout the first and second rounds.

“There was a lot less pressure go-

ing into the second [episode, the Semi-finals,]” Sloan said. “I had already won a game and hadn’t made a total fool of myself. I had represented my family and friends and Middlebury well, so...going into the second one, it was like I have already proved myself.”

Unfortunately, Sloan’s strong performance was not enough to secure her a victory and advance to the Finals. In final Jeopardy!, Sloan, thanks to her Shakespeare studying, confidently generated the correct answer of “What is Falstaff?” to the question. “He has the most speeches of any character with 471 in three plays, of which 2 are histories and one is a comedy.” Her wager of 9,700 points was not enough, however, to surpass the leader, Kevin, of University of California Berkeley.

Though Sloan may have lost in her episode, in other ways she gained a lot. During both episodes, Sloan experienced an outpouring of support from fans and peers via social media and in person. Sloan watched both episodes air in Crossroads Café with many of her enthusiastic student supporters who cheered for her correct answers and congratulated her efforts.

Furthermore, Sloan benefitted from the camaraderie of the other Jeopardy! College Championship contestant. During the taping of the show, contestants would sit in the audience and cheer for their former competitors.

Also, during the two weeks in which the series’ episodes aired, Sloan kept in close contact with the other contestants by corresponding on Facebook, Twitter and Google chat.

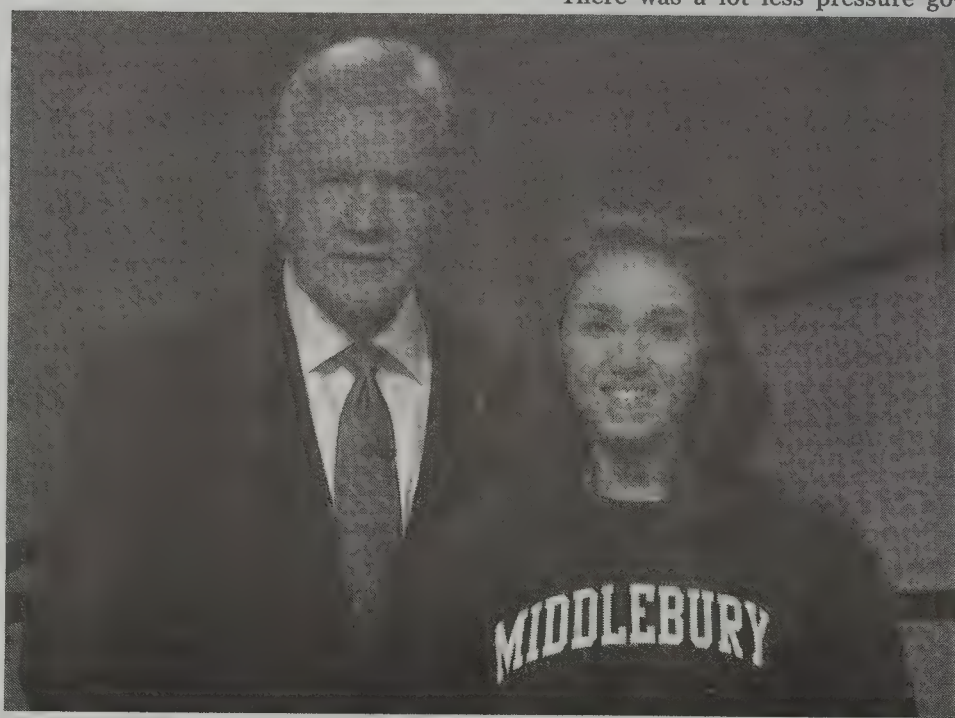
“Even though [all the contestants] were so different, we were bonded by this experience and it was just so nice to have people who understood to talk it all over with,” says Sloan. “Definitely more friendship came out of [Jeopardy!] than competition.”

Additionally, Sloan received the “added bonus” of 10,000 dollars for her advancement to the Semi-finals on Jeopardy!, money which she plans on using to pay for medical school and to buy herself a single scull to row in.

For Sloan, after wanting to be on Jeopardy! for so long, the hardest part of the end of her Jeopardy! run is not being able to participate in Jeopardy! again (the show has a rule that contestants may only participate once).

“Now that it is over, it’s like ‘I don’t get to be on Jeopardy! anymore.’ There is nothing to strive for,” she explains.

Sloan and her fellow contestants hope that in the future the show make an exception and allow a reunion tournament of their College Championships group. For now, Sloan may just have to satisfy herself with cleaning house at Trivia Night.



COURTESY

Erika Sloan ’16, representing Middlebury, poses with Alex Trebek on the Jeopardy! set.

The Glacier Underneath: The Plague of Perfectionism

By Wendy Walcott
and Izzy Flemming

From small talk in Proctor, to late-night brownie binges and even later nights in the library, the constant chatter that echoes through campus concerning the “perfect girl” not only exists, but has taken a toll on the College campus. With an acceptance rate of 17.3 percent, it is no question that our endeavors to get here had the power to jeopardize our mental health. Sadly, our strenuous efforts to arrive at Middlebury all too often permeated our experiences here: whether it be a sister, close friend or even ourselves, we have all witnessed the manifestations of perfectionism, and most of us have stood by as someone we loved engaged in acts of self-hatred.

“We have to be funny. We have to be well read. We have to be in shape. We have to care about the planet...we’re expected to be social while also maintaining perfect grades,” said Elli Itin ’16, co-president of Feminist Action club and coordinator of Wednesday’s “Perfect Girls” talk by Courtney Martin. “We’re told we have to be everything. I’m exhausted of hearing about friends of mine who have been hospitalized for eating disorders, of overhearing conversations in the dining halls of girls saying, ‘I can’t eat any bread tonight because I didn’t work out for an hour.’ I’m tired of having people comment on everyone’s weight, both guys and girls; I’m tired of watching people pile on bracelets from cutting [...] I think we’re all exhausted from dealing with this.”

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, students, most-

ly female, gathered in McCullough Social Space and prepared to confront the stimulating issue of society’s pressure to be “perfect” when famed feminist Martin took the stage. A native of Colorado, Martin wrote her first book, “Perfect Girls, Starving Daughters: The Frightening New Normalcy of Hating our Bodies,” as a reaction to the culture of self-hatred she experienced during her time at Barnard College. Itin introduced Martin to the crowd of over 200 students and community members, listing her accolades – five books, editor of *Feministing.com*, founder of The Secret Society for Creative Philanthropy and appearances in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek* and on *Good Morning America*, *The TODAY Show* – invited the audience to “catalyze a conversation about the voices in our heads telling us that we aren’t good enough.”

“Well that was a bad-ass intro,” Martin laughed, inviting levity on stage for a conversational, comfortable atmosphere. Approaching a sensitive topic with grace, Martin announced, “I love learning from you how this [perfectionist trend] is showing up specifically at Middlebury. I’m here to learn as much as I am to speak.” She began the conversation with a question, asking those of us to stand that knew someone who had suffered from a “full blown” eating disorder. Four or five people remained seated as nearly the whole audience stood.

“Beyond the full blown eating disorder, what I am most interested in talking about with you today, is not the top line diagnosable eating disorders ... what I am most in-

terested in is the glacier underneath. The iceberg on top is what we see as these full blown diagnosed eating disorders, but underneath there is this huge massive epidemic of women and men, importantly, who are self hating,” Courtney explained. Over half of women between the ages of 18 and 25 would prefer to be run over by a truck than be fat and another two thirds would prefer to be more stupid, she highlighted.

“How can we stop settling for self-hate and redefine success to include wellness?” Martin asked.

In approaching a response, Courtney was certain to define the root of body-image issues: “[They’re] not really about beauty, but at this deep, deep level they’re about this existential sense: what makes me worth something? What makes me seen by others? What makes me feel in control of the world? It isn’t about food or fitness, but about the deepest questions we can ask about who we are.” The effort to “be everything to all people,” (in Martin’s words), and further, to make it look effortless, all too frequently results in self-harm.

But does this problem affect the wider Middlebury demographic? Prior to the lecture, a student edited one of the posters for “Perfect Girls,” commenting that the group that the poster addressed was one “of white women.”

“It’s statistically true — that the richer you are, the more privilege you come from, the whiter you are, the more likely you are to have an eating disorder,” she explained. However, this idea has led to misdiagnoses of women of color. A recent study showed that black women are as likely to binge and purge, and are more likely to fast and abuse laxatives or diuretics.

“A lot of times we think that the only beauty ideal in our culture is the white, thin, beauty ideal. Well there are actually many beauty ideals in our culture,” Martin said.

So how does this issue play a role on campus? A large part lies within the word “effortless.” As one student explained, “I think that it’s much more masked here. I think that there’s a lot of obsessive behavior, but I think the problem at Middlebury is that we convince ourselves of effortless perfection...not only do we convince ourselves that we need to be perfect and that our peers are perfect, but that it all comes very effortlessly — hugely detrimental to the psyche because a) no one’s perfect, and b) it certainly isn’t

without trying.”

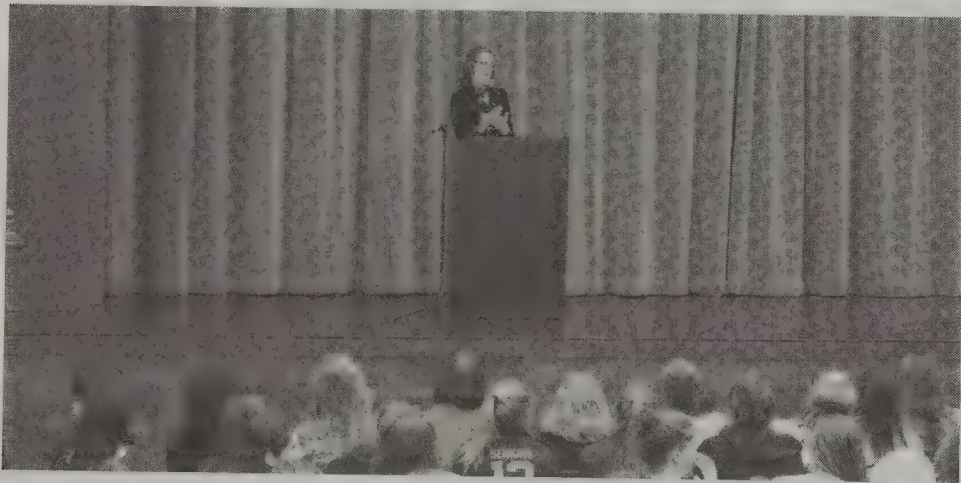
One freshman-feb said that before she came to Middlebury, she was told not to worry about the “freshman-fifteen,” because “you lose weight here.” Whether or not this is true for you, when 35 percent of Middlebury students are varsity athletes, it is hard to overlook the college’s reputation that places an emphasis on fitness and food. As one senior cross-country runner explained, “Being fit here isn’t just being healthy and being in shape, it’s, ‘Are you an All-American?’...It’s cool [at Middlebury] to run a marathon, to be the football star, be a lacrosse boy...and it changes what it means to have a good body; to be fit.” We’ve adopted the mentality that fitness equates to value, and though it is important to be healthy and self-aware, we’ve lost a sense of true success by setting too high of standards for ourselves and others.

“I’d say the dominant scene at Middlebury is probably the athletic scene. But there’s other sides of Middlebury campus, and I would say those sides are no less overachieving, just in different ways,” Lily Andrews ’14 commented. As a Gender Studies major, Andrews explained that for her, achieving is making social justice initiatives and proving her leadership. Hannah Geldermann ’16, an Environmental-Chemistry major and pre-med, illustrated a similar perfectionist mindset within her field, described the intense self-inflicted pressure in a pre-professional atmosphere. Jiya Pandya ’17, explained, “You can somehow never do enough at Middlebury.”

We have set impossibly high standards for ourselves in all regards, and in turn have suffered the consequences. The last question to pose is now that we’re aware, how do we invoke change? Courtney offered steps to move towards a shifting mindset.

“We can change conversations about weight to well being. We can speak up against fat discrimination. We can think about ‘With who do we feel the happiest and most beautiful, and how can we hang out with them all the time?’”

She further explained that we need to trust ourselves if we need professional help, we can get involved with feminism on campus, and endorse health rather than “perfection.” Itin explained, “We have to reach back into our little kid selves, and ask if our eight-year old selves saw us now, would they be happy with our choices? Not our resumes, but the way we treat ourselves.”



Feminism author Courtney Martin talks body image issues among college girls.

Miller-Lane on Contemplating a Mind-Based Education

By Adrian Leong

Education studies professor Jonathan Miller-Lane gave a public lecture last Wed., Feb. 19, that began with medieval church music — with improvisation on the saxophone — and ended with him standing in a white Aikido hakama, a traditional piece of samurai clothing worn in various forms of martial arts.

In his lecture, titled “Shaping a Life of the Mind for Practice: An Inclusive Vision for a ‘Global’ Liberal Arts College,” he sought to synthesize purely intellectual pursuits with experiential learning and merge body, brain and spirit together in the work that students and faculty do. It came at a time when the faculty is debating whether certain internship experiences should be counted toward academic credits, in the context of an even larger debate about the subordinated nature of experiential learning in the liberal arts education. Instead of picking any one side of the argument, Miller-Lane argued that learning is mind-based, not brain-based, in order to find a creative solution to the liberal — or illiberal — education dichotomy.

While we should prioritize our intellectual mission on this campus, he argued, we need to understand that becoming a better thinker is not all just brainwork.

“To talk about the mind is to speak of the marvelous and unique expression of body, brain, and spirit that is the human being,” he said, and when we understand our mind as “embodied, lived experience” then we will start “attending to the

bodies on one’s campus, and the experience of those bodies... That brings with it a profound commitment to inclusion,” he said. This means that we all need to constantly remind ourselves that “there is no prototypical Middkid, there is no ‘normal,’” he said. “There is just us, each and every one of us, here, working on making sense of our lives and trying to make this place work as a community of safety, challenge, discomfort and, hopefully, beauty.”

And how might this be possible on a campus where students, faculty and staff alike all seem to be rushing to do everything?

This is where “contemplative practices” come in, which refer to meditation and mindfulness exercises. Several professors on campus have pioneered this pedagogy, including environmental studies professor Rebecca Gould. She feels that contemplative practices don’t “interfere with the rigor of the class, but enhance it.”

“We are accustomed to rushing through material, rushing through our days, multi-tasking and feeling stressed,” she said. “I highly value productivity, but I worry about when the drive to ‘do things’ begins to interfere with deep learning and with meeting one another as whole people. So it’s always a challenge to move away from our default way of doing things, but once you get past the challenge, the benefits are rich and ongoing. My students have reported on the challenges and benefits in a fairly consistent way over the years.”

Kelsey Follansbee ’16.5 is currently

taking a class with environmental studies professor Marc Lapin, who also uses contemplative practices in class. One exercise prompt: “consider a party we had essentially marginalized in our conversation about sustainability,” Follansbee said. “Taking several minutes to reflect enabled me to open up and find new meaning in our discussion and its implications.”

All to say, contemplative practices are not only beneficial to the well-being of the learners, but they can actually be used to find “innovative ways to engage with the content of a course,” as Professor Gould suggested. Specifically, they “help us know, experience and understand at an inner personal level the real connections and inter-relationships that we live every day,” Professor Lapin said.

Such practices that lead to inclusion have received more praises than sneers. Alongside students and faculty’s overall support for bringing such practices to the classrooms based on class feedbacks, there is a group that gathers every semester to share ideas, according to Lapin. They also invite outside practitioners, as well as staff and students, to share their experiences and practices. Even so,

Gould thinks that these practices can be adopted more widely.

“I am hoping to create some occasions where we can share what we do with other interested, but less experienced, faculty,” he said.

The choice of the medieval church music at the beginning of Miller-Lane’s lecture was not random, of course.

“The combination of a saxophone improvising over medieval polyphony was meant to reflect two fundamental ideas of Western music: improvisation and composition,” Miller-Lane said. “I was suggesting that at its best a Middlebury education might offer the same opportunity for us as students, staff and faculty — we encounter the traditions of learning (compositions) while, hopefully, cultivating and supporting students’ ability to add their own improvisation.”

With this new insight into what the learning process constitutes, it seems

like faculty and students are only going to demand more opportunities to regain the intentionality to their work in the classroom. Experiential learning and contemplative practices need not be seen as threats to the traditional intellectual rigor, but complements to that experience that is vital because it reinvigorates the body, mind and spirit.

“Consider a party we had essentially marginalized in our conversation about sustainability. Taking several minutes to reflect enabled me to open up and find new meaning in our discussion.”

KELSEY FOLLANSBEE ’16.5
STUDENT

Middlebury Musicians United Makes A Music Scene

By Noah Stone

The music scene here at the College is leaving its underground home for the center stage, as Middlebury Musicians United (also known as MMU) provides a new venue for campus performers.

MMU's main goal is to bring student music to the Middlebury community. They currently manage a rehearsal space in the facilities building and a recording studio in the Stephen A. Freeman International Center.

In MMU's latest initiative to promote campus musicians, they launched an event called Wednesday Night Open-Mic Night (WOMP) — taking place every week at the Gamut Room. Students sit on couches throughout the cozy space, eating warm crepes, making small talks as they wait in anticipation for performers to step onto the stage like Nellie Pierce '16.5 — who wowed the crowd last Wednesday in WOMP's inaugural night.

"When I first came to campus there wasn't a music scene," Mitchell Parrish '14, the head of MMU, said. "Three years ago, there were only a few student bands on campus."

As a sophomore, Parrish formed Thank God For Mississippi, an Appalachian jam band, which has become a prominent group on campus the last few years. Over the past several semesters, the student run, underground music scene at the College has grown tremendously, with the formation of bands like Stoop Kid, Boat Taxi, Iron Eyes Cody, Will Cuneo's Band and Alpenglow.

MMU is at the center of much of this recent activity, as a network for connecting student musicians.

"MMU is the Facebook for music," Parrish said. "It puts bands together."

MMU's primary initiative is to unite students who play instruments and encourage them to make music. The group is responsible for coordinating the two band rooms on campus, as well as many student

performances.

The practice room under the smokestack of the Biomass plant contains a drum set, a PA system, amplifiers for instruments and lockers for students to store their equipment. The room is almost always occupied on weekday nights. With a simple go-link click, ("go/practice"), students can schedule to play music whenever the room is free.

The second space, a recording studio under the Freeman International Center, has a more substantial amount of equipment, with a great drum-set, more microphones, amplifiers and a separate room with a computer for mastering music. This space (accessed through "go/record") has been used to record and produce many student bands, such as Iron Eyes Cody and Thank God For Mississippi.

Though these two facilities, supervised and managed by MMU, are crucial spaces to bring student musicians together, more can be done to encourage and increase participation by all students in the musical activity

that often goes under-recognized on campus. Students like Parrish see opportunities such as WOMP, which will be happening every Wednesday night this semester, as the next step — a way of bringing musicians and listeners together in an informal setting.

"People love the idea of getting together to watch live music," Rob Shaw '16 of Iron Eyes Cody said. "People are very quick to engage with that. People want to be in that communal setting where they can drop their boundaries and share in a musical experience."

Clearly, the student music scene has grown in the last couple years on campus. With the growth of student bands and opportunities for listening that WOMP provides, in the next semester the College will hopefully begin to see more musicians like Pierce, who had never performed for an audience until last Wednesday.

Refer to page 3 on News to read more about WOMP.

'TWESE FOR PEACE' WINS \$10,000 DAVIS PROJECT FOR PEACE GRANT

By Jiya Pandya

Every year the Middlebury College Center for Social Entrepreneurship grants \$10,000 to one student to develop a grassroots project for peace. The initiative, Davis Projects for Peace, was started in 2007 by Kathryn Davis, a renowned philanthropist who chose to celebrate her 100th birthday by donating \$1 million "to help young people launch some immediate initiatives that will bring new thinking to the prospects of peace in the world," according to the Project's website. The Davis Projects for Peace are available to the 91 schools that have partnered with the Davis UWC Scholars program and Middlebury is the Projects' headquarters.

The College has had a variety of projects submitted and undertaken since 2007; this year, 13 students applied for the grant for the summer of 2014. Proposals were submitted by late January, and were discussed by a seven person committee consisting of executives from the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship (CSE), the Community Engagement (CE) office, noted alumni of the College and professionals that have a history of working with the Davis family.

Elizabeth Robinson '84, director of the Projects on Creativity and Innovation in the liberal arts (PCI), was one member of this panel.

"Davis Projects for Peace gives students the opportunity to try their hand at social entrepreneurship and to practice what you're learning in the classroom," she said. The proposals, Robinson explained, are judged on a set of four criteria: creativity, impact, sustainability and humility. Each project is given a score from one to five on each criterion by each of the members of the committee, and then total scores are compared. The highest rated proposal is selected as College's entry into the Davis Projects for Peace for that given year.

But having your proposal selected is not the end of the road.

"The reason we identify and select to projects early is because we want to work with the projects and develop them over spring," Robinson said. Once selected, the proposed project and the student in charge of it are put through a process of mentorship and discussion, in order to make the project better.

This year's recipient is Arnel Nibasumba '16, with his project 'Twese For Peace National Camp', set in his home country, Burundi. The project aims to convene students of conflicting ethnicities from across Burundi between the ages of 17 and 23 for two weeks, and help them nurture their peace-building, conflict resolution and entrepreneurial skills.

As he explained his project over a cup of hot Burundian tea, Nibasumba's passion for his country, its history and his need to make a positive change was more than evident.

"There is much more than war in Burundi, and if we want to define where the country is going to be in 15 years, we need to act now. This is my way of playing a role in

the future of my country, of creating a better Burundi for my children than the one I grew up in," he said.

In the grander global scheme, Nibasumba added, Burundi is either forgotten or labelled as conflict-ridden and torn.

"I wanted to show that we are not a pity-case, we have young people that have ideas and we can change things."

Nibasumba applied last year for the Davis Project for Peace grant, and did not receive it, but chose to begin his project anyway, albeit to a smaller extent in his city, Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. He applied again for the grant this year and was selected.

"I saw that my project had a big impact last year," Nibasumba said. "And I saw that the bigger picture was worth pursuing." He hopes to expand his project and build on what he learned from last year, now that he has more funding due to the Davis grant. "The students I had last year motivated me; now I know I'm not the only one, and I want to keep striving to make a change."

Nibasumba's advice to students that did not receive the grant is simple.

"Don't give up. This grant isn't the only way to make things happen. Keep networking, contact organizations. There are so many opportunities on this campus that will help you make things happen," he said, citing MiddStart, an online College crowd-funding campaign, as an example.

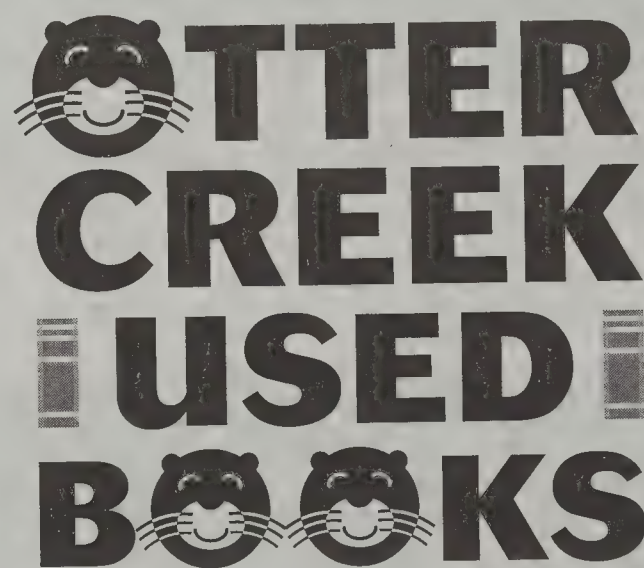
Robinson also vigorously emphasized that the Davis grant is only one of the many opportunities available through this campus. She stated that organizations like PCI and CSE have grants to "support student ideation" and encouraged students to "jump in and try."

"A lot of the recipients of the Davis peace grant had applied once and not been accepted before they received it," Robinson said. "It just takes a little time. You have to fail a little in order to learn, and these are projects that can be honed over time."

Robinson cited multiple examples of passionate, inspiring students that have initiated Davis Projects for Peace, fondly calling them "superstars." Shabana Basij-Rasikh '11 did a Davis Project during her time at the College and went on to form her organization SOLA, School of Leadership, Afghanistan. Robinson also spoke about Rachel Sider '14, who conducted her project in Jordan in 2013 called Empowering Voices Through Artistic Expression, and Jihad Hajjouji '14 who did a project entitled The National Entrepreneurial Camp in Morocco in 2012.

Robinson further stressed that working with the CSE and CE on campus or applying for grants such as the Davis Projects for Peace is not restricted to students who are considering social entrepreneurship in the future.

"Not everybody wants to be a social entrepreneur, and that's fine. We see these opportunities as a means for students to just be better at who they are and who they want to be," she concluded.

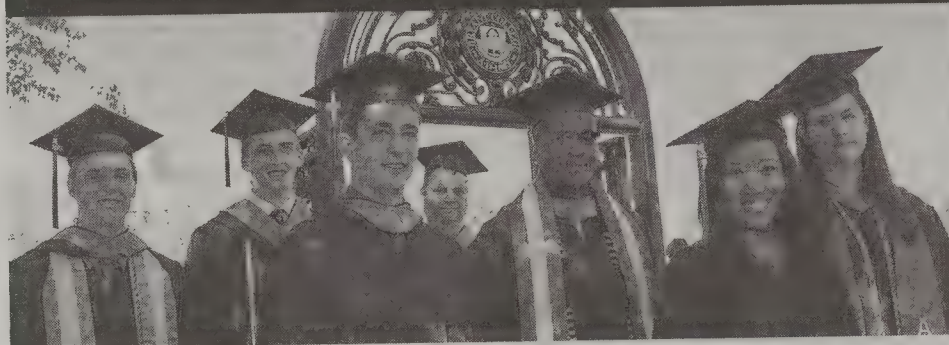


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ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

Examining 'The Masks' Through Dance

By Mandy Kimm

This weekend at the Middlebury College Dance Theatre, masks were worn, washed off and fashioned as the Dance Company of Middlebury, under the direction of Assistant Professor of Dance Christal Brown, performed "The Meaning of the Masks."

The performance began unravelling cultural "masks" of convention before viewers even settled into the theatre. House lights remained lit and ushers pointed people to seats as the audience gradually became aware of the nearly immobile forms of the dancers who had appeared onstage. With eyes closed and faces painted various shades of white, grey or green, the seven members of the Dance Company of Middlebury — Hai Do '14, Amy Donahue '13.5, Cameron McKinney '14, Jill Moshman '14, Rachel Nuñez '14, Isabella Tudisco-Sadacca '13.5 and Chelsea Chuyou Wang '16 — glided around the stage, each step slowly dragged forward.

The audience, conflicted between the cultural expectation that they should be silently attentive of performers onstage and the confusion that the show was not supposed to start for another few minutes, settled into an uncomfortable silence as the last few audience members shuffled into the remaining seats of the dance theatre. This initial upset of what is understood culturally as the beginning of a performance raised the question for the evening: What is cultural convention, and how do we mask ourselves to conform to or break from such convention?

Under this frame of mind the first piece, "Fly Catching," choreographed by visiting artist Shizu Homma, could be interpreted as an escape from the confines of conventional working life. The dancers, sporting painted faces, closed eyes and office attire, moved as puppets directed lethargically forward until the strings began to be cut. Dancer by dancer, body part by body part, the imagined lines went slack, and the dancers slumped a shoulder, a hip or a torso. Occasionally, the lines tightened again and the dancers righted themselves, until finally the strings were severed and dancers fell to the ground. The remaining few strings unsuccessfully attempted to revive them, but eventually all dancers collapsed. Once all the strings were cut, all seven dancers rose and began to laugh hysterically as they skipped around the stage — in this writer's interpretation, freed from their puppet existences.

This puppet segment created a last-

ing image of all the dancers standing in a line facing the audience after righting themselves from various slack movements. McKinney stood as an exception, raising his head last. As the only movement onstage, the audience was invited to focus on that incrementally slow motion, somehow making the movement incredibly personal.

Once free of their puppet strings, the dancers presented a fascinating contrast between primate rituals of grooming and their human parallels. Moving as primates, the dancers pounded the ground and picked imagined insects off of each other's backs; in the human parallel dancers offered each other fruit and fixed each other's make-up and clothing.

"Are rituals, games and structured society really culture, or more complicated systems of animal instincts and hierarchies?" Homma asked in her choreographer's note.

The second piece, "Paperdoll," choreographed by Ayo Janeen Jackson, smoothly transitioned from the first, but began distinctly with a bathing ritual. Wang got into a metal tub and cleansed herself of her paint mask as McKinney and Do brought out water and poured it over her. She chose a red sheet of butcher paper out of several red dresses that the female dancers presented to her. Performed by Moshman and Nuñez for the Saturday matinee and evening performances, respectively, on Friday evening Donahue lay down on the paper to perform the solo, clad only in nude underwear.

The piece clearly became one of bursting through a self-created mask as Donahue traced her body onto the paper and fashioned herself a dress out of it with scissors and duct tape — notably, with a tail. Her fiercely determined movements were lent a defiant and powerful feeling by Madonna's "Give it 2 Me" pounding through the theatre, with empowering lyrics such as "Nobody's gonna stop me now" emphasizing Donahue's actions.

As the song shifted to "Hurricane" by Grace Jones, Donahue embodied the force of a hurricane with stunningly executed spins in the air reminiscent of a figure skater's jumps. The leaps and repeated falls seemed to become more painful as Donahue kept on, until at the close of the song she wrapped her paper tail around her neck — and it snapped.

She ran from the stage as McKinney entered wearing ragged, dark strips of cloth and exploring a movement that



COURTESY

Paint was one of multiple mediums used by student dancers to indicate their masks.

felt richly primitive in its honesty. The rest of the dancers soon joined McKinney onstage for the beginning of "Collecting Carnival," choreographed by Brown as "a movement menagerie of the African Diaspora," according to the program.

As the seven members of the Dance Company of Middlebury moved together onstage, the connection between this group of artist-creator-performer-dancers felt vibrant and richly satisfying to witness.

The dancers gradually pieced together their personal masks as the work progressed, each donning intricate individual costumes of feathers, black paint and colors and a particular movement quality that they chose in order to expose a part of themselves. In what Donahue called in the program "experiential performance practice," the dancers explored how their chosen masks allowed them to delve into experiencing a part of themselves not otherwise obvious or exposed

— and raised the question for the audience to wonder about their own masks as well.

Near the conclusion of the Carnival piece, all the dancers moved in sync in a stationary running motion with their arms pumping but their feet firmly planted on the ground.

"It is the human race and an individual race," Brown said, referencing our own masks of cultural conformity.

As students, we have much to gain from reflection on the topics explored through dance in "The Meaning of the Masks." We all wear many masks to conform and blend in with the flow of our culture as students and as members of our various individual cultures, and those masks are not necessarily a negative part of our interactions. However, to understand what lies beneath those masks and what influences their formation, perhaps we should take the time to explore ourselves behind the masks.



COURTESY

In "The Meaning of the Masks," The Dance Company of Middlebury explored the literal and figurative significance of the masks worn internationally throughout history.

DON'T MISS THIS

RoseLee Goldberg

The director and founder of the Performa Institute in New York will give an illustrated lecture on her text *Performance Art: From Futurism to the Present* and discuss her role as curator of the current museum exhibition *Performance Now*.

2/27 4:30 P.M. CONCERT HALL, CFA

Elemental

Director/Producer Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee will screen his award-winning film about three modern environmental activists from around the globe. Part of the Howard E. Woodin Environmental Studies Colloquium Series.

2/27 4:30 P.M. AXINN 232

Rust and Bone

The Hirschfield International Film Series continues with French director Jacques Audiard's story of an unemployed, single father's developing relationship with a whale trainer after she experiences a severe trauma. Free.

3/1 3 AND 8 P.M. DANA AUDITORIUM

Dolci Celebrates Culinary Creations

By Olivia French

Middlebury's only student-run restaurant, Dolci, turns 16 this year. Since its conception in 1998, Dolci has served as an on-campus haven for foodies of all stripes, offering students the unique opportunity to enjoy high-end cuisine or create and serve original menus. Dolci is housed in Atwater dining hall, where 80 students sit down to a free, multi-course meal most Friday evenings of the year. Midd kids doubling as head chefs, cooks and waiters arrange the meal for their peers over the course of the preceding week, working beside — and sometimes with — Atwater dining staff.

Anyone is welcome to cook for Dolci, regardless of background or experience, a detail that encourages students to explore culinary interests at all levels. Ben Bogin '15, Co-President of Dolci, believes the opportunity to work in an industrial kitchen like Atwater is one of the greatest perks of Dolci.

"I hope that people who have never cooked before can come feel comfortable working in the kitchen, because working in our dining hall kitchen is so amazing," Bogin said. "It's a completely different world."

Bry Kleber '14, who will be the head chef of the last Dolci dinner of the spring

semester, agrees that Dolci is a unique experience for students.

"It's a really great feeling to be able to cook for somebody," Kleber said. "There's something very intimate about that, and you can get that intimacy and that connection with Dolci, which I think is great."

Attending Dolci as a dinner is just as rich working behind the scenes. Bogin's sister and Co-President Emily Bogin '16 explained that Dolci offers a dining experience not usually available to college students.

"I think it's important to have an opportunity to experience a five course meal if you don't have the budget for it," said Emily. "It's cool to be able to eat in such a formal setting."

Dolci's attendance rates have always been high, thanks to its reputation for creative and scrumptious food. Past Dolci dinner themes have ranged from Modernist to Southern Comfort to Art History to Everything Bacon. Anna Flinchbaugh '14's Harry Potter Dolci dinner this past fall was so popular that 130 students signed up to fill the usual 80 seats.

Spring promises seven similarly original meals, including a dinner devoted to vegetables of the Allium family like onions, garlic, leeks, and chives; South American surf and turf featuring scallops

drizzled in cilantro lime pesto; a dinner inspired by New York restaurants; and an all-chocolate dinner. The endless variety of dinner themes reflects the range of student cooks on campus.

"If you know a person really well and you're eating their food it's kind of fun to see what they put together and how their menu might be a reflection of themselves because it ends up being really personal," said Ben.

Although Kleber has not yet finalized her theme, she and her co-chef Sara Arno '14.5 have dreamed of leading a Dolci dinner since they were freshmen.

"We have gone to many Dolci's and I've always been super impressed by how the students are able to execute everything," Kleber said.

The daughter of a chef, Kleber enjoys cooking as a source of calm and connection.

"For me, cooking is something that I do as a way to relax and calm down...I think it's very therapeutic," she said. "And the social aspect of food and cooking is great. I find that important, to be able to make connections and friendships."

Ben and Emily share a similar view of cooking. They grew up making pancake breakfasts together and eventually worked in a restaurants and bakeries in

high school.

"Dolci is kind of what brought me to Middlebury," Ben said. "I heard about it at the information session, and I was sold."

Indeed, the infrastructure Dolci offers — a clean, professional cooking space and a variety of equipment and ingredients — is very unique to the College and a perfect opportunity for students who want to explore food beyond their limited dorm kitchens.

Dolci continues to expand and evolve thanks to increased funding in recent years. Over their run as co-presidents, Ben and Emily hope to increase the number of dinners offered and perfect the dining experience in Atwater.

"When you're sitting with seven other people and you only know one of them and it's family style, you feel kind of awkward. I'd like to see if there's a way in the future to make the dining experience better," Emily said.

First and foremost, however, the siblings are committed to promoting community and creativity around food, both on campus and beyond.

To learn more about Dolci or sign up for a spring dinner, check out go/dolci. On most Wednesdays at 9 p.m., you can enter your name into a lottery for a pair of tickets to dinner served on Friday at 6 p.m.

STEINWAY BRINGS NEW SOUND TO CAMPUS

Continued from front page.

"I'll be talking about the value of the study of the arts in the context of a liberal arts education, but also how the arts are an important part of the fabric of our society," Polisi said.

In 2005, Polisi wrote The Artist Citizen, discussing the responsibility of the artist to present their art to communities around the world and to make people understand the importance of the arts in any environment.

"I'm very passionate about the idea that within the context of a liberal arts environment like the wonderful program at Middlebury that students, faculty and administrators understand how the integration of the study of the arts and the appreciation of the arts on campus can really enhance the entire environment, not just the artistic environment," Polisi said. "People who can participate in a serious digestion or understanding of the arts really are more empathetic, more involved in their own society and more able to have a positive influence on everybody in their communities."

An accomplished scholar of music, public policy and the arts with two books to his credit, Polisi is also a successful bassoonist with a solo recording of 20th century bassoon. In addition to holding three graduate degrees in music from Yale University, Polisi also has a Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Connecticut and a Masters of Arts degree in international relations from Tufts University. Frequently speaking on issues of arts and education, Polisi has founded many programs that focus on mentorship and the importance of an interdisciplinary education. In 2006, he helped to found the Carnegie Hall/Juilliard Academy, a program designed to prepare post-graduate musicians to be leaders in the arts and education.

"I'm always speaking to our Juilliard students about their sense of mission and their need to really be effective advocates of the arts once they get off stage," Polisi said. "The performance is one thing and that's extremely important, but then they have to be active as missionaries, so to speak, for the arts."

President Polisi's free lecture will take place on Mar. 1 at 4:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts. An evening concert will take place

at 8 p.m. on the same day.

The concert will be a festive celebration of the new instrument featuring performances and discussions from several members of the College community. Audience members will first be shown a short film describing the selection of the piano at the historic Steinway factory in Queens, New York.

The Steinway model D concert grand piano arrived at the Concert Hall of the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts on Nov. 26, a gift of the Ray, Meredith and Nathaniel Rothrock '12.5 family in honor of President Liebowitz and his wife, Jessica. The 9-foot, 990 pound piano will reside in the Concert Hall for use by faculty, students and performers participating in the College's Performing Arts Series.

Chair of the Music Department Greg Vitercik is excited about the new musical opportunities created by the piano.

"It opens up a sound world that is simply not available on the instruments any of us encounter in daily life," Vitercik said in an email. "And that new sound world offers a range of expressive and coloristic effects that cannot be produced on lesser instruments, as well as possibilities — and challenges — of control that only exist at the rarified level."

In January and February, President Liebowitz sent out a campus-wide email inviting students, faculty and staff to register for ten minute slots to play the Steinway over the second week of J-term and the first week of the spring term.

Steinway enjoys the reputation of being the concert piano of choice around the world, with each instrument containing over 12,000 parts and taking over a year to manufacture by hand. A selection committee of concert soloists Richard Goode and Paul Lewis, Middlebury Affiliated Artist Diana Fanning '71 and Gwendolyn Toth '77 traveled to the legendary New York factory in late October, testing five potential candidates that might suit the acoustics of the Concert Hall.

Nathaniel Rothrock was an active participant in theater, musicals and the College Choir in his time as a student.

"Middlebury actually approached us about acquiring a new piano," Rothrock said. "The old concert piano in the hall was close to 15 years old, maybe more, and the school had decided that it was time to get a new one. We discussed it and decided

to help fund the gift. As we thought about it, we realized something important. President Liebowitz and his wife, Jessica, who is a concert level pianist, have been and continue to be huge supporters of the performing arts at Middlebury. So

with the proviso that the piano be named in their honor, we decided to make the gift."

The concert will showcase the piano's versatility by presenting a unique mix of genres. Cameron Toh '17, Shannia Fu '17, and David Heschel Liebowitz, all students of Fanning, will perform works by Barber, Debussy and Satie, while Gwendolyn Toth will present early keyboard pieces by Beethoven. Affiliated Artist and Director of Jazz Programs Dick Forman will pair with Felix Klos '14 to play jazz selections. Bass/baritone Rothrock will close the program with songs by Schubert, Lerner and Loewe and Sondheim, accompanied by Associate Professor of Music Jeffrey Buettner.

Vitercik thinks that both performers and audience members will benefit from the high quality craftsmanship of the Steinway.

"We have a long record of bringing some of the finest pianists in the world to our stage, and to have an instrument of this quality will allow them to perform at the highest level of their artistic potential," he said. "Audiences, too, will experience an unparalleled richness, subtlety, and expressive range in those performances."

The concert will be followed by a reception in the Mahaney Center lobby. The event is free but requires the reservation of tickets through the Box Office.

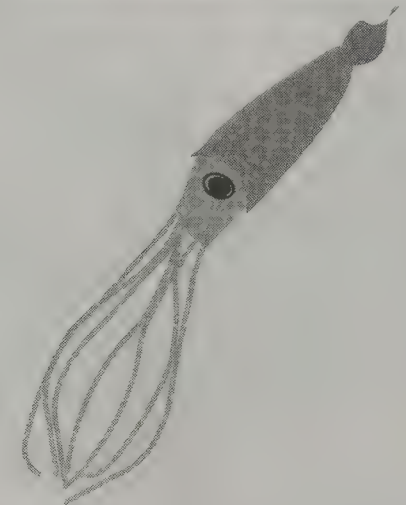
The community has an excellent opportunity to hear Dr. Polisi's lecture and watch the combination of arts and education in action at the concert celebration of the new Steinway piano. The dedication marks what is sure to be just the start of many years of enjoyment for the College.

STEINWAY STATS: 9 FEET LONG



(ADULT ELEPHANT
SHOULDER HEIGHT)

990 POUNDS



WEIGHT OF THE LARGEST GIANT
SQUID EVER RECORDED

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT: OCTOPUS BIOLOGY

By Toby Aicher

I had noticed a couple of times a locked door in Bihall with pictures of octopuses and a sign “octopi wallstreet”, so when my friend Jacob Dixon ’16.5 mentioned he was going to feed the baby octopuses my curiosity was naturally raised and I offered to tag along. When I stepped inside the cephalopod room with its loudly humming pumps and filters and its strong stench of marine biology, I felt removed from Middlebury. Packed inside the room, originally a small janitor’s supply closet, were two 300-gallon tanks containing the octopuses (octopodes is also an acceptable plural, but not octopi). In the first tank one of the three adult California two-spot octopuses floated in sight. Its tentacles stretched nearly a foot and a half, and on its side was its characteristic bright blue dot, one of the two false eyes that give the octopuses their name. Jacob went about feeding small shrimp to the 48 thumb-nail sized babies floating in Tupperware containers on the top of the two tanks.

The College has intermittently kept octopuses for neurological and psychological research since 2008, when two students along with Biology Professor Tom Root opened the lab to study invertebrate intelligence. Researchers have found that octopuses have remarkably complex minds and have evolved emotions, individual personalities and intelligence. Students at the College have sought to build off these discoveries and delve into the workings of the octopus brain and the nature of the mind. In past experiments, students have tested the memories of octopuses by placing them in mazes. Jamie Hillas ’15 will begin a project this spring also investigating the learning capabilities of octopuses. But before Hillas is able to do research, the octopus babies will have to survive and mature.

Alexandra Spencer-Wong ’16 and Amity Calvin ’16 head a crew of volunteers including Jacob Dixon ’16.5, Lisa Wooldridge ’16, Michelle Irei ’15, Tiff Ting ’14, Max Anderson ’14, and Alix Bickson ’14 in charge of the daunting task of looking after and feeding the baby octopuses. Last year another team of caretakers ran into unfortunate problems while taking care of a different group of baby octopuses.

“They had them during the spring and they survived for 6 weeks,” Calvin said, “but

they went off on a break and when they came back they found out there was a high spike in nitrate levels, and they all died.”

Dixon, a published aquarium enthusiast, also explained how maintaining good water quality and monitoring the levels of dangerous chemical byproducts is the most essential part of keeping an aquarium.

“Octopuses and invertebrates in general are very sensitive to nitrate,” he said, “and I think that was the reason for their deaths. For example in my aquarium at home I tried to keep the nitrate levels between zero and five parts per million (ppm). In here they spiked about forty.”

He described a number of ways he kept nitrate levels in check in his previous aquariums and how they are currently trying to do so with the octopus tanks.

“You can introduce live rock with resident nitrifying bacteria that convert nitrate into a more disposable form, or you can introduce macroalgae and they consume nitrates as they grow,” Dixon said. “One of the best ways is to cycle clean pure water through and remove the water with nitrates.”

The octopus eggs were laid in December, and they hatched during February break. Spencer-Wong recalled the excitement of that day.

“We were about to leave — it was just a routine feeding,” he said, “then I looked down and I said ‘Amity, what’s that there’. All of a sudden there were babies everywhere. They would hatch in waves of 15. We had literally made the Tupperware container the day before. I put up this really desperate Facebook status calling anyone on campus to come to the room and help, thankfully a couple of friends showed up. There was a frenzy to try and catch them and put them in the right place and make sure they didn’t slip through the cracks of the aquarium. That was a challenge.”

Since then they have been busy feeding and looking after the octopuses.

“We’ve been feeding them twice a day

and we do one head count a day,” Calvin said. “It’s been difficult finding out how much we need to feed them to keep them from eating each other.”

Another difficulty is keeping them from escaping.

“They are the greatest escape artists that you have ever seen,” Wooldridge said. “I’ve opened the tank to catch one and I’ve seen one trying to climb out of the tank and I have to push them back down.” Reportedly 6-foot long octopuses can squeeze through a hole the size of an orange.

“We didn’t anticipate this continuing in the spring,” Spencer-Wong said. “We thought we would come by and maybe feed them once a week. But now we’re pretty much in charge of feeding the babies which is intense but it’s been a fun experience and we’ve learned a lot.”

After watching the creatures for a few minutes jet around and wrap their snarling tentacles around prey I could easily see how spending time with them was enticing.

“One of the best things about working with them is that you can see a personality,” Spencer-Wong said. “You can see for instance ‘oh, Reggie is grumpy today’ or when I wear a very intensely patterned sweater the octopus would put up these angry horns and run away so I stopped wearing that sweater around them.”

“Their color changing capabilities are just incredible,” Calvin added. “They can blend in so perfectly, and they change color a lot of the time. When you feed them, sometimes their blue spots will pulse very quickly. When they are relaxed they turn this calm, pale, white shade.”

The group hopes that at least 10 of the baby octopuses will survive into the spring. Currently they have 7 student volunteers.

“You can never have too many volunteers,” Calvin said. “If you know anyone whose interested send them over. We’re gonna work with the octopuses until there are no more left.”

“[An octopus] color changing capabilities are just incredible ... When you feed them, sometimes their blue spots will pulse very quickly.”

-AMITY CALVIN ’16

THE REEL CRITIC

By Oakley Haight

If my childhood friend group is any indication, there are a few distinct and mutually exclusive ways to play with Legos. There is the rule-follower, who builds the thing on the front of the box per instructions. Next, there is the engineer who ignores the instructions in favor of his own plan, carefully constructing something really cool that will make everyone else jealous. And then there is the final category, to which I belong, whose members collect piles of random pieces and throw them together, creating wholly nonsensical conglomerations of blocks that never last more than a good 15 minutes. The Lego Movie’s approach is definitely that of the last category. Pieces seem thrown about everywhere and the result is ridiculous, often chaotic, but extremely fun and funny throughout.

In a world composed exclusively of Legos, one man — that would be one “Mr. Lord Business” to you — has become president and now controls TV, music, “all the history books” and as the movie opens, has just gained possession of the “Kragle” a kind of super-weapon that could end the world. Indeed, the creativity inherent in Legos has fallen under an authoritarian regime — Mr. Business effectually wants the whole world to be “rule-followers.” Our protagonist/everman Emmett lives as a mild-mannered construction worker and has initially fallen prey to the endless rules and instructions imposed on by Mr. Business. All Emmett wants is to be an ordinary guy and part of a friend group, but it becomes apparent that he is trying much too hard to be normal and consequently has trouble making friends. The Lego Movie quickly becomes about the divide between being ordinary or unique; what makes The Lego Movie’s approach different is that it acknowledges how painfully difficult it is to actually try to be normal, and the amount of work it takes to follow perceived societal instructions that limit one’s personality.

Emmett was of course never going to be ordinary — the movie’s opening scene gives us the story of a prophecy calling for a “Master Builder” to liberate the Lego world from Mr. Business. It turns out that Emmett’s mind is so “prodigiously empty” that he makes a fine choice for the job. This is all you should know of the movie before going in — the last 1/3 of the movie turns the entire concept on its head, making this something greater than a series of well-conceived gags.

There is an uncanny level of self-awareness in The Lego Movie that makes it more and more charming as it continues. It understands the way people use Legos and marvelously captures the way I remember my experiences playing with Legos. At the same time, it is able to poke fun at itself, roasting a few common kid-movie clichés and to some extent the whole concept of the Lego Universe. The fact that Legos can be made of anything and anyone makes this akin to Shrek, with appearances by the lego-likenesses of Abraham Lincoln, Blackbeard, Shakespeare, the 2002 NBA Champion Los Angeles Lakers, and on. Tonally the movie is also somewhere between the satire in Shrek and something sillier like SpongeBob. It has a faster pace and a greater number of action sequences than both, always remaining amiable and coherent.

The Lego Movie does contain a few easy, tired jokes here and there but I can’t criticize this stuff too much without feeling like a particularly pessimistic Grandmother. This is the third impressive comedy from Phil Lord and Chris Miller after 21 Jump Street and Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs; they’re young and very talented, and it’ll be exciting to see where they’ll go from here (aside from the inevitable 2nd and 3rd Lego Movies). And the voice-acting cast alone is impressive, with names like Morgan Freeman and Will Ferrell. I’m not sure if these names necessarily enhance the movie, but it’s always a good time hearing Morgan Freeman cast as an aloof wizard.

This is a movie about Legos and it made me happy. If a movie about Legos sounds good to you, The Lego Movie will almost assuredly make you happy also. If such a movie sounds targeted outside of your demographic, I think you’ll be surprised with how much there is to like in The Lego Movie. It couldn’t possibly be executed with more wit or charm and it sets a standard for the rest of the year’s comedies, animated and family friendly or otherwise. If nothing else, this is some kind of phenomenal marketing tool for Lego.

FOR THE RECORD

BY CHAD CLEMENS

It’s been two decades since Beck penned the anthemic, self-mocking two-lined chorus that (who knew?) would be swallowed heartily by ‘90s frat bros and despondent weirdos alike. Led by “Loser,” his album *Mellow Gold* immediately garnered praise with eclectic fusions of anti-folk twang, old-school hip hop, noisy blues riffs and a little bit of everything else, coupled with darkly-wrought ironic humor wrapped up neatly in a smooth-ish yet vapid white boy flow. Just about every record has followed suit, with maybe a pinch of electro or an acoustic cut here and there, to the approval of both staunch critics and casual consumers.

In 2002, however, he digressed from his oeuvre in putting out the simple, honest, brooding and much less clever post-break-up album *Sea Change*, which still managed to pluck at the feeble heartstrings of listeners everywhere despite compromising on both experimental production and wicked clever (but non-academic!) lyricism. When word surfaced that Beck’s 12th and newest album, *Morning Phase*, would be a continuation/sequel/companion piece/pick-your-buzz-phrase to *Sea Change*, the title along with nary a word about an emotional regression suggested a beautiful, well-crafted, melancholy (like Mourning, the sly dog) yet hopeful ‘self-discovery’ of sorts. And yes, it turned out quite beautiful indeed. Beautiful but also, after not too long, kinda boring.

ing.

I won’t go so far as to say all great art comes from a deep well of pain, but it certainly helps creativity to suffer. Beck was in a tumultuous place those 12 years ago, and it was made pretty obvious: “These days I barely get by/I don’t even try” he echoed on “The Golden Age,” a song made so depressing that such a straightforward delivery was met with empathy rather than accusations of kitschiness. On *Morning Phase*, Beck gently caresses listeners’ ears with somewhat similar sentiments, though from a rather disconnected perspective.

MORNING PHASE

Beck

He establishes moody contexts and auras just the same with his lush orchestration, but there is a noticeable lack of first-person narratives in comparison to the album’s predecessor; he instead opts for externalized pop-generalizations (“Somewhere unforgiven/Time will wait for you”) and vaguely preachy tidbits of advice (“You better save yourself/From something you can’t see/Follow it where it goes/Follow it back to me”). In other words, he is writing from somebody’s heart but not really his own, well-meaning as it may be. In doing so, he turns the empathy on its head and dangerously approaches cliché.

Barring the lyrics, as many listen-

ers are wont to do anyway, *Morning Phase* is musically stunning. Each track swells and contracts delicately within a hollowed sonic landscape, all part of a singular piece that merely comes to rest every few minutes as opposed to a collection of individual tracks cut out and laid down aside one another. “Unforgiven” takes off in a spiraling swoon atop a gently scaled-back tempo and “Blue Moon” soars through a dynamic range reminiscent of *Sea Change*’s standout “Lonesome Tears.” The record is stripped of ominous bass undertones and instances of occasionally overpowering drums used to bring home jarring moments of emotional troughs, which together do in fact point to the lighter nature earlier anticipated.

A mild optimism certainly pervades the musical elements of the record, but they remain in conflict with the lyrical themes to an off-putting degree. Beck fails to convince me of his genuineness when his lovely tunes undermine his words; and as such, I’m not inclined to spin this LP in place of its precursor.

Let me stress that by no means is this record bad. In fact, if this is your first time listening to Beck, I’m sure you will thoroughly adore it. If you liked *Sea Change*, I’m even more certain of it. The problem is, quite simply, it is too similar in some respects and worse in others. Put another way: if you like to frequent name-brand café chains, you’re probably going to hear it whether you wanted to or not.

Panther Skiers Notch Third-Place Finish

By Courtney Mountifield

The EISA Championship annual ski races took place this weekend as part of the 91st Middlebury College winter carnival. Despite some tough conditions, races commenced on time and the usual suspects steamed out to a lead on day one. UVM sat in first place on Friday night, Dartmouth wasn't far behind in second and host Middlebury rounded out the top trio. At the end of day two, the top three stayed the same and UVM held on for another first-place finish with 1,031 points. Dartmouth ended with 905 points while Middlebury made its mark with 664 points.

At the Rikert Nordic Center, Ben Lustgarten '14 had a dominant day one as he claimed his first win of the season in a time of 27:18 during the 10K race. The astounding part about his victory is that the second place finisher was a significant 50 seconds behind. The other two scorers for the men's nordic team on day one were Dylan McGarthwaite '15 and Patrick McElravey '17, who came in at 25th and 31st respectively.

Lustgarten's masterful performance is even more meaningful given that he recently overcame an injury.

"I had some rest following the U23 World Championships in Italy due to my concussion that I suffered during the 30KM pursuit

just over three weeks ago," Lustgarten said. "I was unable to train for one and a half weeks but was happy to be able to race in the Williams Carnival. I was not in my best physical condition for these past two races due to lack of training and recovering from my concussion."

Heather Mooney '15 continued to lead the women's Nordic team with an 11th place finish. Emily Attwood '14 was a mere 15 seconds behind Mooney as she came in at 17th place. Stella Holt '15 also grabbed a top-25 finish, coming in at 24th to complete the scorers for the nordic women's team.

Mooney has set a personal goal of improving on her EISA performance.

"My biggest goal for this season is to be top-8 at NCAAAs," Mooney said. "It's kind of an all-encompassing goal."

The Alpine events were held at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl and on day one conditions were ideal for the women's event. The women were only able to get one run in, but Kara Shaw '15 weathered the conditions better than most as she earned herself an 11th-place finish. Katelyn Barclay '15 and Yina Moe-Lange '15 came in within the top 20 going 17th and 19th respectively.

The men's alpine teams were able to get both runs in, and Middlebury certainly did not disappoint. Nick Bailey '14 and Hig

Roberts '14 gave everything they had as they skied on Winter Carnival weekend for the last time. Bailey had a season best finish of fifth place, while Roberts claimed eighth place. Christopher McKenna '17 was equally as impressive, finishing just outside the top 10 in 12th position.

The men's nordic team was strong in the 20K, despite having Lustgarten out with an injury. Adam Luban '17 had a season-best finish coming in at 17th place, Austin Cobb '14 was 21st, while McGarthwaite was 27th. In the 15K freestyle race, the Middlebury women's nordic scorers were 14th-place finisher Kelsey Phinney '16, Holt in 17th and Attwood in 19th.

For the third consecutive Giant Slalom event, Roberts walked away with a first place finish, ending his last Winter Carnival race on a high note. Liam Mulhern '14 was second for the Middlebury men, crossing line in 17th place, while Ghassan Gedeon Achi '16 came in at 21st place.

After a successful weekend, Roberts looked ahead to future challenges.

"I hope to ski well at NCAAAs at the end of the year and repeat some of the great performances we have had at this race," Roberts said.

Elle Gilbert '16 led the alpine women's team in the Giant Slalom event, earning

a time good for fourth place. The race marked Gilbert's best run this season. Isabel Kannegieser '17 did not shy away in her first carnival event of the season and was able to grab 23rd place. Lisa Schroer '17 came in just after Kannegieser in 26th place.

The Middlebury Winter Carnival was the last chance for the ski teams to perform before they head to NCAAAs, which are being held March 5-8 at the University of Utah.

BY THE NUMB3RS

4

Number of Middlebury squash players who made their ways onto an All-NESCAC roster, announced last Thursday

Average point differential in men's basketball's NESCAC games this season

7.3

17

Goals scored by Louis Belisle '14 this season, tops for Middlebury and fifth in the NESCAC

Middlebury records broken by Stephan Koenigsberger '16 over the weekend

3

33

Years that Missy Foote has been coaching women's lacrosse at Middlebury, who enters the 2014 season ranked third in the nation

Women's Squash Wraps up Season with Win

By Stephen Etna

Following a weekend of excellent individual play at the D3 Singles Championship, the focus for the athletes in the Middlebury women's squash program was once again on team play at Team Nationals from Friday, Feb. 21 to Sunday, Feb. 23.

Following a regular season in which the Panthers went 8-7 against some of the best competition in the country, the women found themselves this weekend at Princeton University ranked 14th nationally. This ranking translated to the Panthers' earning the 6th seed in the B Division at Team Nationals, competing for the Kurtz Cup.

On Friday evening, the women's squash team drew 11th ranked George Washington University in the first round of play.

The Colonials were no strangers to Middlebury, with the two sides having squared off at the Yale Round Robin a

month ago. With George Washington having taken the first match 7-2, the Panthers were eager to balance the series.

Unfortunately, the Colonials showed their might and proved too much for Middlebury to handle. Play opened poorly for the Panthers, with the usually dominant trio at the top of Middlebury's lineup, Abby Jenkins '14, Charlotte Dewey '15 and Annie Wymard '15 falling to their counterparts from George Washington. Despite solid wins from the consistent Zoe Carey '16 and Saskia Pownall-Gray '16, the final score was not favorable to the Panthers, who fell 6-3 to George Washington.

Despite the early setback, the Panthers still had a full weekend of play ahead of them. While the possibility for a championship was gone, the women's squash team had the opportunity to compete and improve its national ranking. In the consolation bracket, Middlebury once again faced a familiar foe in

Williams College. Having dropped their previous matchup against the Ephs 5-4, Middlebury was aware of the challenges winning would entail, but were confident in its ability to compete with Williams.

Jenkins, after falling behind early, got Middlebury off to a fine start with a win in the first singles slot. However, Williams' 2nd through 5th ranked players shut down Middlebury, who did not record a win until Carey and Amanda Chen '14 both picked up their second wins of the weekend at the tail end of the match. After falling 6-3 to Williams, the women were left with only one matchup left to determine the 7th and 8th place finishers in the Kurtz Cup.

The Panthers then faced conference foe Hamilton, a matchup that presented the opportunity to exact some revenge on a team that scored an unexpected win over Middlebury in the Panthers' first match of the season.

Middlebury took great measures to

ensure the match against Hamilton would not be as dramatic this time around. With all around dominant performances, Middlebury won the first eight matches against Hamilton, leaving absolutely no doubt as to who the winner would be.

At the end of the tournament, Carey and Chen remained undefeated through this tough weekend of play.

In addition to the weekend's play, a pair of women's squash players were named to All-NESCAC teams over the weekend. Both Jenkins and Dewey represent Middlebury on the all-conference first team. This is Jenkins' third time on the first team, and Dewey's second.

With the win over Hamilton, the team finishes up the 2013-2014 campaign with an even record of 9-9, with their primary highlight coming in the form of a third-place finish at the NESCAC championships. Middlebury ends the season with the 15th ranking overall in the country.

Men's Swimming Seventh at NESCACs

By Kevin Yochim

The Middlebury men's swimming and diving team placed seventh at NESCAC Championships last weekend, held at Bowdoin's LeRoy Greason Pool. Williams won the title with 1,849 points, followed by Amherst (1,750) and Connecticut College (1,468). The Panthers finished with 730 points, only 38 behind sixth-place Bates.

It was a slight fall in the standings for the men, who finished in fifth place overall last year.

"Even though we didn't place as high as a team overall this year," Ian Mackay '14 said, "I think that our hard work and training could be seen in the accomplishments of many individual swimmers on the team."

The meet was extremely challenging for swimmers, who participated in preliminary sessions in the mornings and finals at night over the course of three days. Middlebury finished day one in seventh and held onto that place all the way to the end.

On the first day, the Panthers got off to a fast start with a fourth-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Mackay led off with a flat-start time of 20.72 seconds, putting the Panthers in the

lead. Mackay was followed by Stephan Koenigsberger '16, Captain Mike Oster '14 and Bryan Cheuk '16, finishing with a time of 1:24.53.

Mackay dominated the action on Friday, earning the NESCAC title in two events and breaking a record along the way. During preliminaries he set a

NESCAC record in the 50-yard butterfly with a time of 21.89 seconds. That night he finished first in the final with a time of 22.01 seconds.

Mackay went on to win the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 20.80 seconds. His prelim time of 20.53 seconds is the 13th-fastest in the nation this year in Division III. He is also the

school and NESCAC record holder in the event, having set the record last year.

Koenigsberger lowered his own Middlebury record with a time of 25.59 seconds in the 50-yard breaststroke preliminaries. He was then disqualified in the final for a false start.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times as for some of us the

meet started out a little bit rough," Koenigsberger said. "However we were all able to rally and everyone swam their hearts out which was just epic to be a part of. Going forward we are only going to get faster and closer as a team."

On Saturday, Mackay earned a second-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 29.24 seconds. Two events later Koenigsberger set another school record, placing third in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 57.66 seconds.

Koenigsberger continued his hot streak on Sunday, this time finishing fourth in the 200-yard breaststroke. His time of 2:04.97 shattered the Middlebury record of 2:07.02 set back in 2004.

Distance swimmer Michael McGean '17 excelled in his first collegiate championship meet, finishing seventh in the 1000-yard freestyle (9:37.27) and fourth in the 1650-yard freestyle (16:04.16).

In the one-meter diving event, Dylan Peters '16 finished sixth with 394.30 points, followed by teammate Skylar Dallmeyer-Drennen '14 (347.85). They switched spots in the 3-meter event, with Dallmeyer-Drennen placing sixth (389.80) and Peters seventh (337.75).

Those who qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships will have about three weeks to train before the March 19-22 event in Indianapolis, Ind.

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT GR8 EIGHT

RANKING CHANGE TEAM
Fritz's Fancies

SKIING

1 It was nasty up at the bowl this weekend, but the Panthers were unfazed.

MEN'S HOCKEY

2 Strong final push to earn a home playoff game.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

3 Gave us a bit of a scare in the second half against Hamilton.

MEN'S SWIMMING

4 Mackay and co. were dominant in the sprints events.

TRACK AND FIELD

5 Shout out to Alex Morris '16, the fastest sports editor, from the second-fastest editor.

WOMEN'S SQUASH

6 Ended the season on a high note by beating Hamilton.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

7 Didn't play this week, but we don't judge.

LAX

8 Kinda scary that both teams' seasons start up this weekend, isn't it?

"I think that our hard work and training could be seen in the accomplishments of many individual swimmers on the team."

IAN MACKAY '14

FREE/FLY

Mixed Results for Track at D-III New Englands

By Fiona Maloney-McCrystle

The indoor track team competed in its first championship meet of the season this past Saturday, Feb. 22, when it travelled south to Massachusetts to attend the Division III New England Championships. The day brought a split in location for the Panther squad, as the men headed to MIT and the women to Springfield, where each group emerged from the day with a number of All-New England honors, including one champion.

On the women's side, the team brought home six all-region honors, which are awarded to those athletes that finish in the top eight places in his or her event. Hannah Blackburn '17 received accolades in her first season, taking seventh place in the triple jump with a mark of 34' 10.25". Erzsie Nagy '17 also continued her successful first year of college competition with her sixth-place finish in the 800 meters, crossing the line in a time of 2:21.30. Alison Maxwell '15 ran the mile in 5:08.44, good for a fifth-place finish, and Laura Strom '14.5 high-jumped 5'3" inches, landing her a fourth-place finish in the high jump. The distance medley relay team, consisting of Catie Skinner '17, Abigail Pohl '17, Addis Fouche-Channer '17, and Katie Rominger '14, managed to gain honors as well, taking eighth place with a time 12:50.87.

Perhaps the most exciting performance of the day came when Alex Morris '16 won the 400 meters, earning herself the title of New England champion in the event by crossing the line in a time of 58.49, defeating the field by over half a second.

"I was over the moon winning the 400, especially since it was pretty unexpected," Morris said. "The field was a lot more competitive than it was last year and I knew that it was going to be incredibly difficult. The other girls pushed me all throughout the race and I didn't really believe I could win it until I overtook the final girl in the last 50 meters. It wasn't my fastest time, but sometimes you just have to race the race."

Overall, the women finished in eighth place in the field of 28 teams, scoring a total of 25 points on the day.

"I think the women's team really did itself proud," Morris said. "It wasn't a very fast track so some times were not what we were hoping they'd be, but we held our own against teams that have a lot more manpower. Not having an indoor track has been frustrating at times, but I think next year we're going to come back even stronger at this meet."

On the men's side, the Panthers brought home five All-New England honors, with three individuals and two relay teams managing top-eight finishes. Alex Nichols '17 continued his solid first-year season with a seventh-place finish in the 400 meters, crossing the line in a time of 51.05. Brandon Cushman '16 furthered the team's middle distance success with a 1:24.32 performance in the 600 meters, running himself into seventh place. Wilder Schaaf '14.5 also solidified his all-region honors with his sixth-place finish in the mile, posting an impressive time of 4:16.85. The men's distance medley relay team, consisting of Mark Perry '16, Alex Ugorji '17,

Sam Klockenkemper '17 and Sebastian Matt '16 just made the cut by finishing in eighth in a time of 10:42.21. With their fifth place finish of 3:27.35, Fritz Parker '15, Peter Hetzler '14, Cushman and Nichols also secured honors for the 4x400 meter relay team.

"[DIII New Englands] is always a strange sort of meet for us," Captain Bryan Holtzman '14 said. "There is no NESCAC meet for the winter season, so this meet serves somewhat as a stand-in for that. We want to score well as a team, but we certainly don't do everything possible to maximize our score. In the past, we place much higher at NESCACs than we do at D3s."

Holtzman lauded his teammates for their individual performances.

"The highlight of the day for me was seeing Brandon Cushman PR by over a second in the 600 meter to take seventh place," Holtzman said. "He ran aggressively, raced well tactically,

and was rewarded with his first All-NE honor." The men's squad finished with a total of 12.5 points, taking 15th place in a field of 26 teams.

"We didn't score as many points as we would have liked and our performances were not as strong as we would have hoped," Head Coach Martin Beatty said, "but everyone competed hard and was excited for the meet. Considering that our training has been hindered without an indoor track this year, the attitude of the team is amazing. They are all mature and driven athletes that will deal with all obstacles in a positive way."

The Panthers look to return to action on Friday, Feb. 28 and continue postseason competition when those who make the qualifying list will participate in Open New Englands at Boston University, competing against athletes from all divisions.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

MEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Hamilton	81-77 ^W
SKIING at Winter Carnival	664 ^{3rd}
MEN'S HOCKEY vs. Hamilton	5-2 ^W
WOMEN'S TRACK at New Englands	25 ^{8th}
MEN'S SWIM AND DIVE at NESCACs	739 ^{7th}

The Panthers are heading to LeFrak Gymnasium with a clear mission; win and you're in.

Another successful Carnival - minus the apocalyptic lightning streak and ensuing panic.

Middlebury earns a home playoff game with this victory.

Alex Morris '16 might be the fastest woman to ever stay up until 2 AM doing layout.

Middlebury finished seventh, but there were some extremely impressive individual performances.

Belisle Honored as NESCAC Player of the Week

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

called a timeout and shared some fervent words with the team.

Toward the end of the second period, emotions were running high and both teams began playing with some real bite. Michael Longo '14, the physical leader of the Panthers, caused mayhem in the offensive corners and created his own chances in the dangerous area right on top of the goalies crease.

After every whistle gloves were thrust up into facemasks and players looked for any chance to inflict harm during the run of play. Jake Charles '16 bowled over an off-balance Hamilton center shortly after an offensive zone faceoff and headed to the box for interference.

"This weekend we played like we were fighting for something. It is nice to see us finally coming together."

ROBBIE DOBROWSKI '15
FORWARD

In the third period, Belisle looked to the sky in celebration after fluttering in a change-up shot from the blue line that fell above a screened goalie. With about eight minutes left in the game, Belisle would score again, assisted by Ben Wiggins '14, to put Middlebury in front.

Hamilton went on the power play and threatened to tie the game once more, but Moorfield-Yee made a bogglingly quick snatch with the left hand and the arena sighed in collective relief.

After Hamilton committed two penalties off their own, Barr came charging through its zone, clapping a low shot of the goalie's pads and clinically finishing on his own rebound. Longo would put a satisfying cap on senior

night and the finally fruitful season by sliding the fifth goal into Hamilton's empty net.

"This weekend we played like we were fighting for something. It is nice to see us finally coming together," Dobrowski said. "We hope that it will translate into more good games in the playoffs."

The upcoming matchup against Bowdoin this Saturday promises to be a real barnburner. Both of the Panthers' games against Bowdoin this season have gone into overtime, with thirteen goals being scored between the two teams. Bowdoin is 4-4 since beating Middlebury on Friday, Jan. 24, and the Panthers are now riding a three-game win streak into the matchup.

This year's team has played significantly better at home than on the road, so Middlebury fans should not underestimate the impact of a well-versed cheer to move the Panthers into the NESCAC semifinal.



RACHEL FRANK

Matt Silcoff '16 and Mike Najjar '17 battle a Continental for this bouncing puck in the Panthers' 5-2 win on Sunday, Feb. 23.

EDITORS' PICKS



ALEX MORRIS (32-28, .533)



FRTZ PARKER (32-37, .464)



JOE MACDONALD (27-34, .443)

Will it be a clean sweep for the Middlebury lacrosse teams in their season openers vs. Tufts?

YES

Spring sports are finally here and snow is still falling. I picked the wrong school.

NO

Did you know that they do preseason rankings for D-III lacrosse? Huh.

NO

I think the men will be good this year, but much like basketball, it will take time.

How many goals will leading scorer Louis Belisle '14 tally in the Panthers' home playoff game against Bowdoin?

ONE

It's gon' be tight.

ZERO

The Panthers will have to spread the puck around in this one.

ONE

He's had one in two games against Bowdoin. He'll step up in this one.

Boston Red Sox (-8.5) vs. Boston College Eagles in Fort Myers, Fla.

RED SOX

Everyone's too nice to each other in editors' picks now. Bring back the banter.

RED SOX

What sport is this for? Curling?

RED SOX

It's time for baseball, baby!

Will #2 Wichita State finish the regular season undefeated with a win over the Missouri State Bears on Saturday, March 1?

YES

I really like saying Wichita (I promise more thought was put into choosing this answer than that...).

YES

Doesn't mean they'll get anywhere in the tourney though.

YES

Yeah, and they'll lose the conference final or the first game of March Madness.



NO PAIN, NO GAIN

The ski team left it all on the course en route to a third-place finish at this weekend's Winter Carnival, which doubled as the season's EISA Championship. See page 18 for full coverage.

MICHAEL O'HARA

Men's Basketball Avoids Second Half Upset with Continental Victory

By Joe MacDonald

Middlebury (17-8, 6-4) kept its season alive with an 81-75 defeat of the Hamilton College Continentals (14-11, 5-5) in Pepin Gymnasium on Saturday, Feb. 22. The game marked the eighth straight season in which Middlebury had hosted a NESCAC playoff game by earning one of the top four seeds by virtue of its regular season performance. Hamilton, meanwhile, competed in the NESCAC tournament for just the second time.

Middlebury will play number eight Williams College in the semifinals to be hosted by Amherst College, the top seed. Middlebury played Williams at home on Friday, Jan. 31 in what was possibly the most gut-wrenching defeat of the season. Leading the Ephs, who were ranked 11th in the nation at the time, by 16 at halftime, Middlebury struggled defensively in the second half en route to a 64-61 loss.

In a similar fashion, the Panthers had a large first half lead on Saturday against Hamilton. The contest was neck-and-neck for the first five minutes, when Hamilton forward Bradley Gifford put the Continentals up one with 15:01 remaining in the first half. After Hunter Merryman '15 knocked down a three-pointer, one of his three treys in a team-leading 17-point effort, Middlebury took the lead and never relinquished its advantage. The Panthers outscored Hamilton 32-20 in the remainder of the first half to take a 13-point advantage into

halftime up 46-33. Middlebury did especially well on the boards, leading the Continentals 20-12 in that department.

With the memory of many early second half letdowns looming, Middlebury opened the latter 20 minutes with a 15-6 run, capped off by an awe-inspiring alley-oop from Joey Kizel '14 to Dylan Sinnickson '15 who threw the ball through the iron with two hands to the excitement of the Pepin crowd.

The wind seemed to escape the Panthers' sails after the Sinnickson flourish, however. The Continentals retaliated with 12 straight points to make it 61-51 in favor of Middlebury. The margin hovered around 10 until the last two minutes. In the final 2:05 of the game, Middlebury went 6-11 from the free throw line, almost handing the game over to Hamilton. With the Panthers clinging to a four-point lead, Merryman hauled down the rebound on a missed three-pointer from sophomore Continental guard Matt Hart, who scored 30 points in these teams' last meeting, with ten seconds on the clock. Merryman passed the ball to Kizel, who was fouled and clinched the victory by making both free throws.

As a team, the Panthers were very efficient from the floor, shooting 53.8 percent from the field and 56.2 percent from beyond the arc, but only 69.6 percent from the line. Merryman added four rebounds to his outstanding offensive performance. Kizel tallied 14 points, six rebounds, six assists and two steals to go along with the aforementioned game-

clinging free throws. Sinnickson went 5-11 from the field for 12 points and added five rebounds.

The rest of the starting lineup, James Jensen '14 and Jack Roberts '14, combined for 18 points, nine rebounds, four assists, two blocks and a steal. Jake Nidenberg '16 and Dean Brierley '15 each played tremendously off the bench, adding six and five points respectively. Jake Brown '17 had a major impact despite not lighting up the stat sheet, tallying just five points. However, the first-year guard logged 29 minutes and did the majority of the work locking down Hart, who went 4-11 for 11 points, the NESCAC's leading scorer during the regular season.

"Going into this game Coach told me I'd be seeing a lot of minutes on [Hart]," Brown said. "He is a tremendous player that can do almost everything. Guarding him was tough, and I think he ranks among the top guards in the league."

The Panthers need to beat Williams and follow that up with a win in the NESCAC tournament championship over the winner of the game between Amherst, ranked seventh in the nation, and fifth-seeded Trinity, who upset Bowdoin 71-67 in the first three overtime game in NESCAC tournament history on Saturday, Feb. 22, in order to make their seventh straight NCAA tournament.

"This Saturday's game against Williams is going to be awesome," Brown said. "A lot of emotion and energy will be in the gym and we need to play 40 minutes of basketball."

Men's Hockey Earns Home Ice in Playoffs

By John Wyman

Middlebury (11-10-3) won big this weekend over Amherst and Hamilton to earn home ice advantage for the NESCAC quarterfinals, which will take place versus Bowdoin in Kenyon Arena this Saturday, March 1. Robbie Dobrowski '15 fired in the late game winner to dispose of Amherst, and the seniors contributed five goals against Hamilton in their final regular season game. In the last ten years, only one other Middlebury player has scored as many goals in a season as Louis Belisle '14 has this season. The captain has tallied 17 scores this year and garnered NESCAC Player of the Week honors for his achievements over the weekend.

The contest on the night of Saturday, Feb. 22 entertained the eight hundred fans in attendance as much as any of the weekend Carnival events. Belisle scored first on a second-period power play, gliding into his familiar position on the left point and punching a wrist shot into the twine behind Amherst goalie Dave Cunningham. Middlebury worked its way to a 2-0 lead when Ronald Fishman '16 buried an outside shot on another power play.

There were several juicy rebound chances that seriously tested Cunningham, but he battled to keep his team in reach. Sure enough, the Lord Jeffs would find a turnover in the Middlebury zone and move within one goal just past the game's halfway point.

One minute into the third period, Liam Moorfield-Yee '16 kicked out an initial save, but a fortunate Amherst forward evened the score at two.

It felt like a matter of time before Middlebury, who recorded nearly double the shots on goal as Amherst, would jump ahead again. When it did, Dobrowski did so in rousing fashion. John Barr '14 charged hard out of the zone on the breakout and linked up with Belisle in the neutral zone. As he crossed the offensive blue line, Belisle slid the puck over to Dobrowski. The Amherst defender poked and stiffened to block the shot, but Dobrowski curled the puck tight to his back leg and squeezed off a rising shot that split the defender's legs and whizzed past the goalie's ear before he could react. Dobrowski was overdue for his first goal of the season, but he could not have chosen a better time to score it.

"Honestly I just tried to put it on net," Dobrowski said, "but it was a great feeling to get the lead. There's nothing better than beating Amherst."

Middlebury still needed to win against Hamilton on Sunday, Feb. 23 to gain a home playoff game, and the senior class stepped up to make sure of it. Surprisingly, despite going ahead on a nifty backhand goal from Thomas Freyre '14, the already eliminated Hamilton Continentals battled back for two consecutive goals that put Middlebury uncomfortably behind. Head Coach Bill Beaney

SEE BELISLE, PAGE 19

